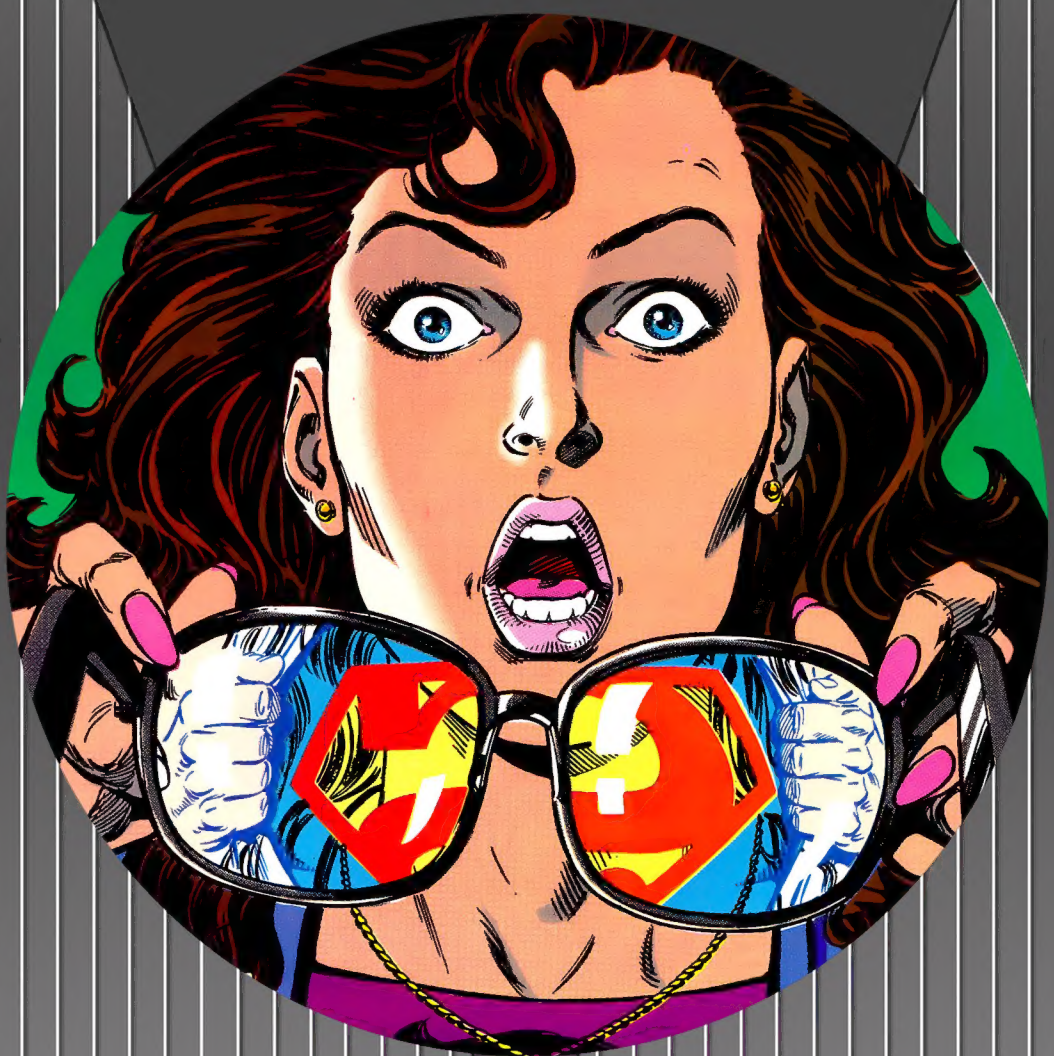
SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

Volume 42:

Secrets In The Night



THE HELL'S GATE LANDFILL, NOT FAR FROM METROPOLIS...

WE CAN'T HANDLE MUCH *MORE* WASTE HERE, SIR.

LEXCORP HASN'T GOTTEN THE OKAY TO OPEN THE *OTHER* SITE YET.

AND NOBODY WANTS A DUMP IN *THEIR* BACKYARD.

ALL VEHIC MUST PAS

NO

NO
NO
NO
NO

STOP

HMPH! THEY ACT LIKE THIS ISN'T *THEIR* GARBAGE IN HERE!

IT'S YOUR EARTH DON'T TRASH IT

LEXCORP LANDFILL STINKS!

STOP GROUND POLLUTION

IT'S UNSAFE

NOT IN MY BACK YARD!

DUMP LEX CORP

RECYCLE

THIS IS A PUBLIC RELATIONS NIGHTMARE, BOB. CAN'T WE DISPERSE THEM?

NAH, BUT WE *CAN* MOVE THEM AWAY FROM THE FENCE, HAL.

SECURITY!

PRIVATE PROPERTY

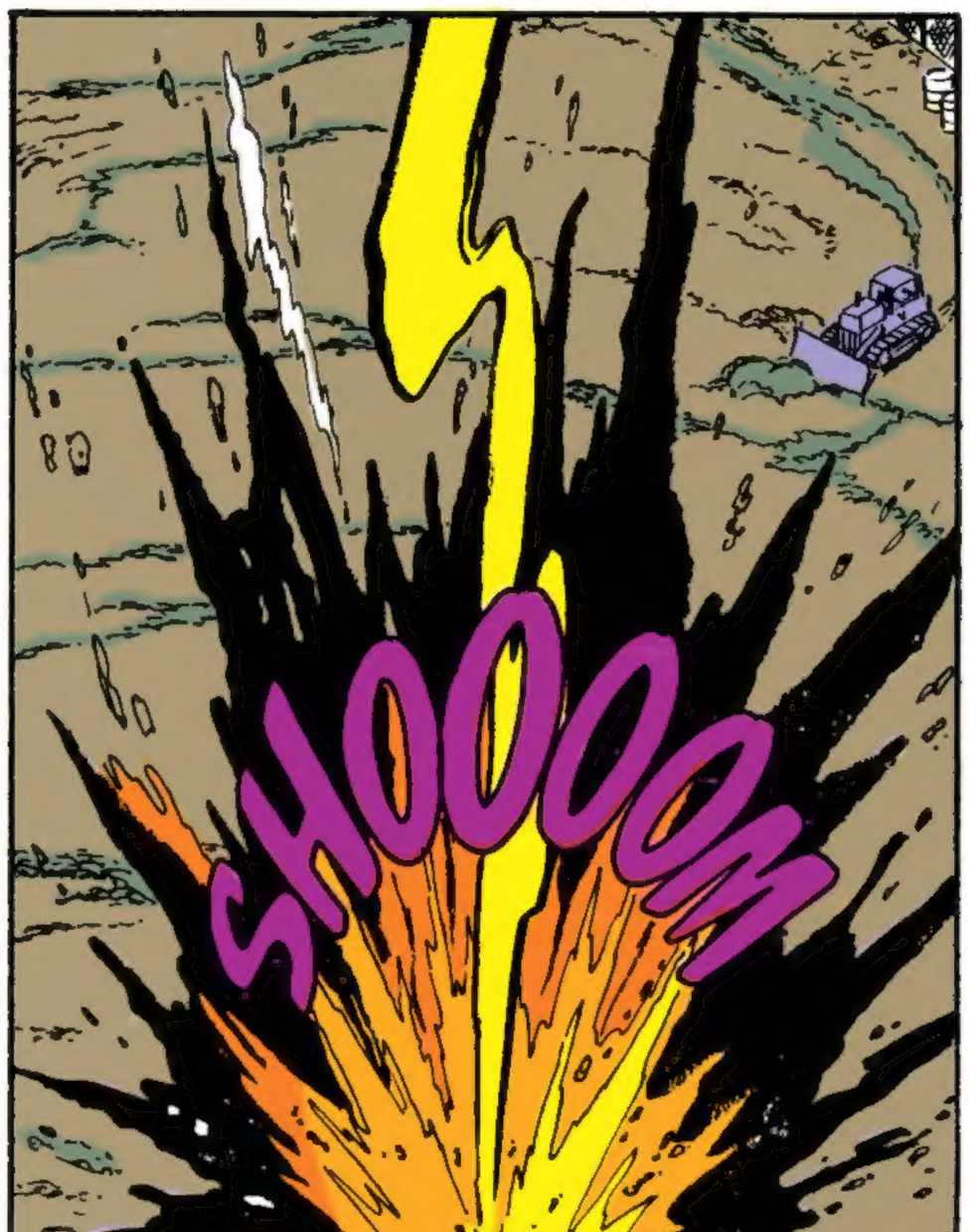
NO TRESPA

STEP BACK, PLEASE...

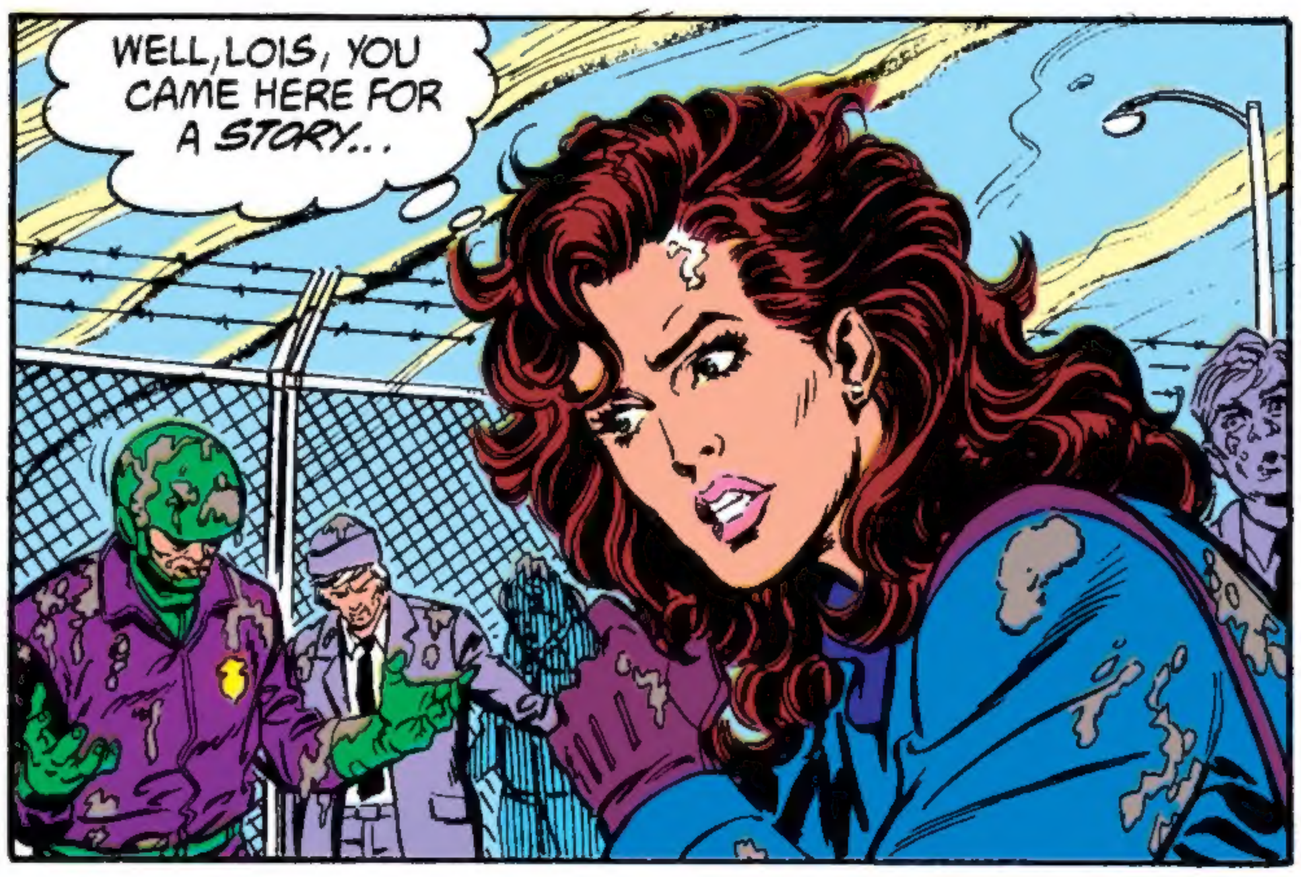
...FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.

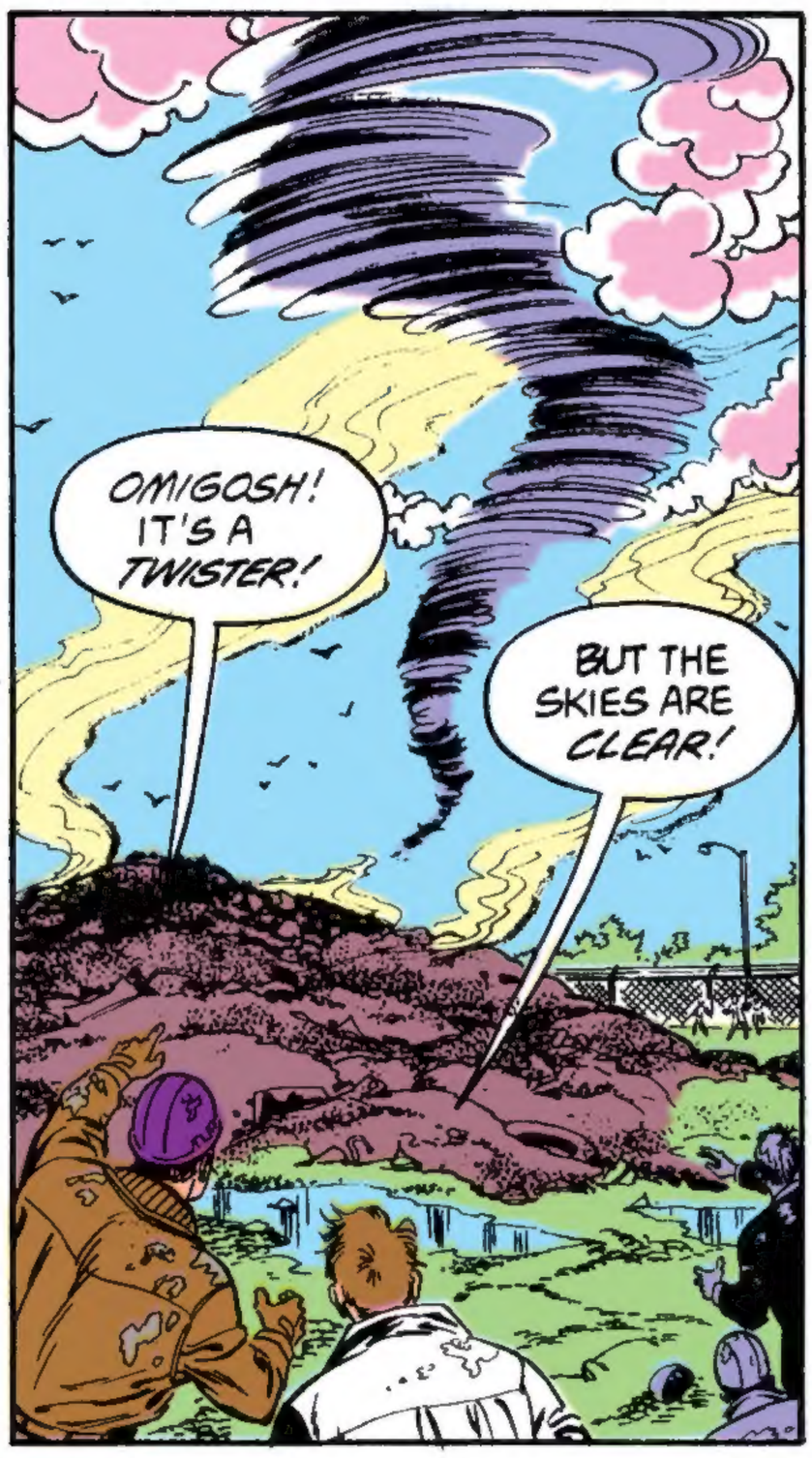
BULL.

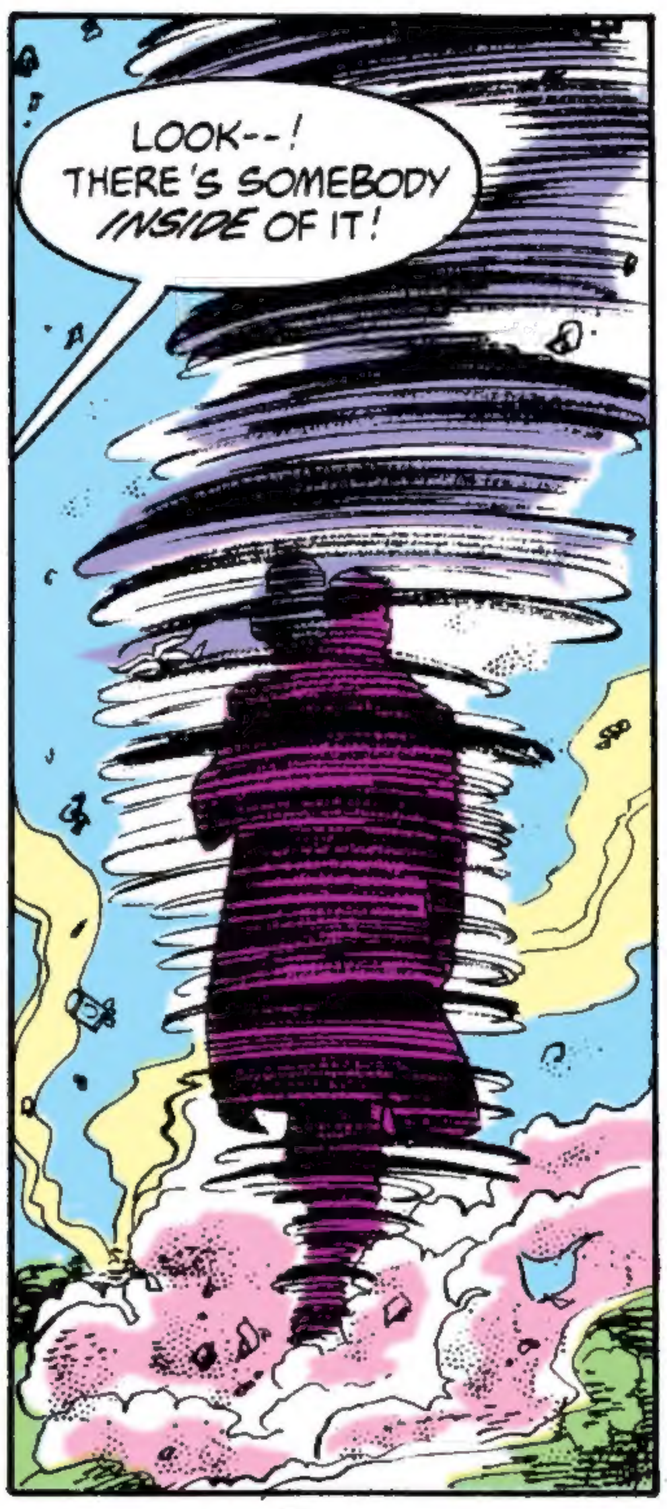
HUH? WHAT'S THAT SOUND?


SHOOOM

OHHHH, GROSS!
DID ONE OF YOU RADICALS TOSS A GRENADE OR SOMETHING?
DUMPS STINK!


WELL, LOIS, YOU CAME HERE FOR A STORY...


OMIGOSH! IT'S A TWISTER!
BUT THE SKIES ARE CLEAR!


LOOK--! THERE'S SOMEBODY INSIDE OF IT!

NOW WHAT? LEXCORP DOESN'T NEED ANOTHER NEGATIVE PUBLIC INCIDENT!
BUT WHO THE HECK SHOWS UP RIDING A TORNADO? MR. CLEAN?

The NAME, pardners, is TERRA-MAN...

...JUST DON'T WEAR IT OUT!

NOW IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME, I'D LIKE TO CLEAN UP THIS *DUMP!*

SECURITY, PLEASE DETAIN THIS MAN FOR THE POLICE.

THAT'S TOBY MANNING! AND HE'S STILL *ALIVE!*

KERRY GAMMILL penciller • JERRY ORDWAY writer • DENNIS JANKE inker
GLENN WHITMORE colorist • JOHN COSTANZA letterer • DAN THORSLAND asst. editor • MIKE CARLIN waste
JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER, creators of SUPERMAN

YOU HEARD THE MAN, "PARDNER." NOTHING *PERSONAL*...

AH, BUT IT *IS* PERSONAL, HOMBRES...

...MY GAUGES HAVE DETECTED TRACES OF RADIOACTIVITY AND SOME HAZARDOUS WASTE IN YOUR "*LANDFILL*."

GOD, HOW I *HATE* THAT EUPHEMISM, *LANDFILL*...

SORRY FOR THE JOLT, PARDS, BUT I'VE GOT WORK AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PIT...

YEOWWW! GROUND'S GIVING WAY!

THOOM

THIS PLACE IS A *CESSPOOL*.

AND I'D STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU VARMINTS CLEAR EVERY-ONE OUT OF THE AREA, PRONTO!

IF LEX LUTHOR WERE STILL ALIVE, HE'D NO DOUBT *TERMINATE* MY BUTT FOR PRESIDING OVER THIS *PR* FIASCO!

WELL, LET'S SEE WHAT DAMAGE CONTROL I CAN MUSTER UP FROM THE *TOWER*...

THEY CAN SCRAMBLE SOME *HEAVY DUTY* SECURITY DOWN HERE TO TAKE CARE OF--

BLAST! CELLULAR PHONE'S DEAD!

SAY, LANE SEEMS TO BE GETTING THROUGH...

PUT ME THROUGH TO PERRY-- *I MEAN* MR. FOSWELL!

THIS IS LOIS, AND I'VE GOT A *REALLY* HOT STORY!

HELLO, MISS LANE, WHAT CAN I--

SAM, I NEED PAGE ONE! Y'KNOW-- BIG HEADLINE AND A CHUNK OF SPACE-- THERE'RE BIG DOINGS AT THE HELL'S GATE LANDFILL!

NO DICE, LANE. THE AFTERNOON EDITION GOES TO PRESS IN TEN MINUTES!

I'VE GOT AN INSIDE ANGLE ON THIS ONE, AND IT WON'T KEEP TILL TOMORROW MORNING! PERRY USED TO TRUST ME ON THESE THINGS...

YOU ARE DEALING WITH SAM FOSWELL NOW, AND I DON'T HOLD A FRONT PAGE WITHOUT HARD COPY, MISS LANE!

;SIGH; SAM, LISTEN--CAN YOU CONNECT ME WITH KENT, THEN? HE'S PROBABLY AT MY DESK...

HELLO, CLARK KENT HERE--OH, HI, LOIS.

YOU WANT ME TO TYPE YOUR STORY INTO THE COMPUTER SYSTEM?

WELL... OKAY, GO ON, LOIS.

GOOD GRIEF. LOIS AND ALL THOSE OTHER BYSTANDERS COULD BE IN GRAVE DANGER, IF TOBY MANNING'S INVOLVED!

EDITOR

MR. FOSWELL? LOIS'S STORY IS ON THE SYSTEM. YOU SHOULD LOOK IT OVER--IT'S *BIG* NEWS...

WHAT, ARE YOU AND LOIS TRYING TO GIVE ME *ANOTHER* ULCER?

OH, ALL RIGHT, I'LL READ HER SCOOP. UH, COULD YOU HELP ME ACCESS IT?

I'M NOT TOO FAMILIAR WITH PERRY'S TERMINAL.

OH, *SURE*.

HMMM, THIS *IS* GOOD, BUT SINCE *WHEN* DID YOU AND LANE START WORKING *TOGETHER?*

I THOUGHT --*AH*, FORGET IT...

THANKS KENT.

HELLO? COMPOSING ROOM?

TERRA-MAN MANAGED TO GET A WHOLE GROUP OF BYSTANDERS INJURED THE *LAST* TIME WE MET

STAIRS

HERE'S YOUR CELLULAR PHONE BACK, MISS LANE. I *OWE* YOU ONE!

TAKE MY CARD AND CALL IF I CAN REPAY THE FAVOR.

THANKS, UH, RAY.

SAY-- YOUR CO-WORKERS ARE EITHER VERY BRAVE, OR VERY STUPID...

AREN'T THEY AWFULLY CLOSE TO WHERE MANNING WENT UNDERGROUND!

I CALLED FOR HELP-- WHY WON'T THEY *WAIT?*

THERE'S THAT *HUMMING* SOUND AGAIN! I--

"*OH GOD! THE GROUND'S SWIRLING-- THEY'LL BE PULLED UNDER!*"

SOME SORT OF *SINK-HOLE?*

GRAB MY HAND...

ACH-- I'M STUCK TOO!

SOMEBODY! ANYBODY-- HELP US...

HATE TO PULL YOU AROUND LIKE THIS, FELLA, BUT BETTER TO SUFFER A SORE ARM THAN TO SUFFOCATE, RIGHT?

=KAFF KAFF=

LET'S FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE HAPPENINGS HERE!

MISS LANE, THESE TWO MEN NEED FIRST AID!

NOW TELL ME-- DO YOU KNOW WHAT TOBY MANNING'S UP TO HERE?

NEVER MIND THAT--TWO MORE MEN ARE *TRAPPED* UNDER THAT DUNG-HEAP!

HOW'D YOU KNOW ABOUT MANNING BEING INVOLVED HERE?

WHY-- BECAUSE I'M REALLY CLARK KENT, LOIS.

I SPOTTED HIM UNDERGROUND WITH MY X-RAY VISION...

OH. OF COURSE.

I SEE SOMEBODY DOWN THERE, BUT HE'S NOT BREATHING...

WAS THAT A *FREUDIAN* SLIP WITH LOIS? IT'S AWKWARD ENOUGH COVERING FOR MY DUAL IDENTITY...

...BUT IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT TO *LIE* TO MY *FIANCÉE*.

I'D BEST CONCENTRATE ON THE BUSINESS AT HAND NOW...

THIS IS *ODD*--MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION OF THE SOIL SHOWS *NORMAL* CONCENTRATIONS OF MINERALS, BUT NO *TOXICITY!*

IT'S PLAIN OLD DIRT NOW.

THERE'S ONE OF THE MISSING MEN, BUT HE'S NOT DOING TOO WELL.

WHERE'S THE *OTHER* ONE?

THERE? NO, THAT'S MANNING, IN THE MIDDLE OF ONE OF HIS TELEPORTA-TIONAL VORTEXES.

I MAY STILL BE ABLE TO GRAB HIM BEFORE HE--

THERE'S THE OTHER GUY WHO WAS DRAGGED DOWN, AND THIS ONE HASN'T GOT A HEARTBEAT.

NOT A SECOND TO LOSE, IF THERE'S ANY HOPE OF RESUSCITATION...

MANNING MAY HAVE SOMEHOW DE-TOXIFIED THIS DUMP, BUT HIS CARELESSNESS MAY COST HUMAN LIVES.

SUPERMAN'S GOT THEM BOTH!

HE'S BREATHING AGAIN!

THANK GOD. SUPERMAN, HOW'S--?

NO PULSE OR RESPIR-ATION...

IT'S BEEN FIFTEEN MINUTES, SUPERMAN...

...HE'S BEYOND YOUR HELP.

DAMN.

DAMN! MANNING'S LONG GONE!

HE CROSSED THE LINE THIS TIME-- *BLOOD* HAS BEEN SPILLED.

YOU GUYS HAVEN'T HAD MUCH *GOOD LUCK* SINCE YOUR BOSS, LEX LUTHOR, DIED IN THAT PLANE CRASH.

OLD HAL EARNED THE NICKNAME "*LUCKY*" BECAUSE HE ONCE SURVIVED AN AIRPLANE WRECK...

"I GUESS HIS LUCK JUST RAN OUT!"

JOSE, WHO'S THAT DOOFUS?

FINE SEAFOOD EAT AT DA OYSTER

DAILY PLANET

THIS MAN WON BIG PLAYING LOTTO!

THE NEXT WINNER COULD BE YOU!

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

$14,000,000 DOLLARS

TICKETS AT ALL VINNIE'S LOCATIONS

LOTTO WINNER FINDS TICKET BUYS FAVORITE TAVERN

ADAM, IT'S NOT RIGHT TO MAKE FUN OF PEOPLE...

...ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY GET *RICH* OFF OF *MY* LOTTO PICK! *I'M* THE KING OF THE DOOFUSSES FOR *LOSING* THAT TICKET!

YEAH, I GUESS...

DAILY PLANET

...BUT HE'S PRETTY LUCKY TO WIN ALL THAT MONEY!

IF *YOU* WON, YOU'D BE *RICH*, AND THEN YOU COULD MARRY MY *MOM*!

SHE MARRIED DAD 'CAUSE OF HIS *MONEY*, AND SHE REALLY *LIKES* YOU...

YOU'VE BEEN TALKING TO DAD AGAIN HAVEN'T YOU?

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES! WELL, HE'S RIGHT. CAT GRANT AND I *ARE* FROM DIFFERENT WORLDS...

WHOA! FOURTEEN MILLION! I PLAY MY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, AND IT'S A WINNER FOR THE GUY WHO *FINDS* MY TICKET! GEEZ...

KID, LET'S TAKE IN A MOVIE!

I'LL BUY THE TICKETS...

...AND I'LL BUY THE POPCORN AND SODAS!

Y'KNOW WHAT?

"WE MAKE A PRETTY GOOD TEAM!"

I'VE FOUND A *LOCAL* ANGLE ON TOBY MANNING!

DAILY PLANET

WE ASSUMED THAT BECAUSE TERRA-MAN SPORTED A "COWBOY LOOK" AND FIRST ATTACKED IN ARIZONA*, THAT HE'S FROM THE WEST...

YOU'RE SAYING HIS *DRAWL* IS A PUT-ON?

NOTI

* see SUPERMAN #46.

NOT AT ALL, BUT HE DID BUILD THE LOOKOUT PEAK CHEMICAL PLANT WITH FOUR OTHERS...

SECTION 2 PAGE 4 DAILY PLANET

TOP CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS FORM PARTNERSHIP

LOOKOUT PEAK? THE TOWN THAT THE *EPA BOUGHT* FROM ITS RESIDENTS -- JUST SO THEY COULD EVACUATE IT?

MANNING WAS THE SOLE PARTNER TO BE INDICTED FOR THE CHEMICAL SPILLS FROM THEIR FACTORY TEN YEARS AGO.

THE TOWN WAS SO CONTAMINATED WITH DIOXINS THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY HAD TO STEP IN.

THIS OTHER STORY DETAILS THE *EPA* INVESTIGATION THAT LED TO *FINES* AND *PRISON* TIME FOR MANNING ALONE.

HIS PARTNERS, HOWEVER, ALL DIED *WHILE* TOBY WAS IN JAIL.

GEE, IS *THAT* SUSPICIOUS, OR *WHAT?*

CLARK, MY LOVE...

...IF MANNING *IS* IN THIS AREA, WHAT BETTER PLACE FOR HIM TO HIDE OUT THAN IN A TOWN THAT'S BEEN DESERTED FOR TEN YEARS?

I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT, LOIS. LOOKOUT PEAK *IS* STILL CONTAMINATED...

"...SO DON'T GO OUT AND DO ANYTHING DANGEROUS."

I WANT MANNING'S STORY, BUT I'M NOT SO CARELESS AS TO WALK INTO THIS TOWN UNPROTECTED.

WARNING

STOP

HAZARDOUS AREA

WELCOME TO LOOKOUT PEAK

POPULATION 437

WARNING DO NOT PASS TH

DANGER

MY NEW FRIEND RAY AT LEXCORP WAS GOOD AS HIS WORD IN ARRANGING FOR ME TO *BORROW* THIS CONTAINMENT SUIT.

WHAT A HORRIBLE HORRIBLE TRAGEDY...

IT'S SOMEHOW *MORE* CHILLING THAT *THIS* GHOST TOWN WASN'T THE RESULT OF SOME KIND OF *INTERGALACTIC ALIEN MENACE*...

...RATHER THAN SOME INDUSTRIALISTS RUNNING A CHEMICAL PLANT.

THERE IT IS...

WONDER IF I HAVE ENOUGH *OXYGEN* TO GET ME UP THERE *AND* BACK!

DON'T GET *MANY* VISITORS 'ROUND LOOKOUT PEAK-- 'LEAST NONE SINCE I SET UP CAMP HERE LAST WEEK!

CODE 4

THIS HERE *WHEEL'S* GOT TO ROLL, COME HELL OR HIGH WATER, IF I'M TO FIX THIS MESS I HELPED T' CREATE!

MY LAB BOYS PROMISED THAT IF I COULD GET THIS CONTRAPTION UP *HIGH* ENOUGH, IT'D BLANKET THE WHOLE DURNED TOWN...

...I JUST DON'T NEED ANY SIDEWINDERS GUMMIN' UP THE WORKS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE MY *FIANCÉE* WOULD DELIBERATELY MISDIRECT ME WHILE SHE PURSUED A *DANGEROUS* ANGLE ON A *STORY!*

"CLARK," SHE SAYS, "I'M ONLY GOING UP TO LEXCORP TO FOLLOW UP ON ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THEM AND MANNING..."

GOOD THING HER "*PAL*" RAY CALLED THE PAPER TO QUESTION *WHY* SHE WOULD *NEED* A CONTAINMENT SUIT!

NOW, IF HE ONLY HAD THE *BRAINS* TO REFUSE IT TO HER IN THE FIRST PLACE, WE WOULDN'T BE IN-- HUH?

EVEN MUFFLED THROUGH AN OXYGEN MASK...

...I'D RECOGNIZE LOIS'S SCREAM FOR HELP!

WHOOOOOAA NELLIE! WANDERIN' FAR FROM THE HERD, AREN'T YOU?

SOME SORT OF CRUDE *ROBOT*?

I JUST WANT TO *TALK*, MANNING!

WAIT! DON'T-- YOU'LL RIP THE *SUIT*...

I AM NOT MANNING. I'VE BEEN ORDERED TO ESCORT YOU OUT OF TOWN BY SUNDOWN, VARMINT!

THIS HERE'S A DEADLY TOWN, AND THOSE 'RE THE RISKS!

I-DON'T-THINK-SO!

SSSS

ZZZZAK

A LITTLE *HEAT VISION* SHOULD SOLDER HIS CIRCUITS!

WHA--? *SUPERMAN!*

HOW LONG DO YOU EXPECT TO KEEP BARRELING HEAD-FIRST INTO TROUBLE LIKE THIS WITHOUT GETTING HURT?

I DON'T KNOW-- AS LONG AS YOU'RE AROUND?

THIS IS *SERIOUS*, LO--

MANNING!

WOW. HE HASN'T BEEN *THIS* IRRITATED WITH ME BEFORE!

WALK BACK TO THE TOWN LINE NOW, LOIS.

AND DON'T *ARGUE.*

SUPERMAN, I'M WORKING ON SOMETHING MIGHTY IMPORTANT HERE.

WHEN IT'S FINISHED, I *PROMISE* YOU I'LL TURN MYSELF IN, TO THE LOCAL SHERIFF.

LOOK, MANNING, I THINK YOUR *INTENTIONS* ARE GOOD, BUT AN INNOCENT MAN DIED THIS MORNING BECAUSE OF YOU...

MY *TREATMENT* CONVERTED ALL THAT GARBAGE INTO INERT MATERIALS--*DIRT* IS ONCE AGAIN JUST *DIRT*.

DON'T YOU THINK *THAT* SAVED SOME LIVES DOWN THE ROAD? 'SIDES, I HEARD TELL THAT LEXCORP GUY WAS *PART* OF THE *PROBLEM*...

GOOD OR *BAD* IS FOR THE LAW TO DECIDE. HIS DEATH WAS UNNECESSARY.

IF YOUR *CONVERSION* PROCESS IS PROVEN, TURN IT OVER TO THE *EPA*! THEY'VE GOT *HUNDREDS* OF TOXIC SITES TO CLEAN UP.

AND THEY'VE GOT A *POLITICAL* AGENDA TO SERVE--AND RED TAPE TO CUT THROUGH!

THAT'S YOUR POINT OF VIEW... THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO--

C'MON, YA IDJIT, I WUZ ONE O' *THEM*! THEY'LL STUDY MY PROCESS FOR YEARS BEFORE IMPLEMENTING!

AND FROM THE VEST PARDNER, WE DON'T *HAVE* THAT LONG TO WAIT!

THIS TOWN WAS ONCE ALIVE, AND I HAD A HAND IN *POISONING* IT--PCPs, DIOXINS, THE WORST STUFF IMAGINABLE...

...ON THE ROADS AND IN THE STREAMS. I *MUST* ATONE FOR IT...

I'M *SORRY*, MANNING, BUT I--

NO, SUPERMAN, *I'M* SORRY I HAVE TO DO *THIS*...

OH, NO, YOU DON'T! YOU WON'T BE WHIRLING OFF IN A TORNADO *THIS* TIME--OOF!

CHOOM

CHOOM

I'M NOT *GOING* ANYWHERE, HOMBRE...

THAT PARTICULAR VORTEX HAS LOIS LANE'S NAME ON IT!

WHOOOOOSH

LOIS! WHY DIDN'T YOU *LISTEN* TO ME?

I'M *FED UP* WITH YOU, PAL!

SCRUNGE

I DON'T LIKE TAKING *HOSTAGES*, BUT THAT GAL'S GOING TO KEEP *YOU* FROM DESTROYING MY ARMOR'S CIRCUITRY...

SHOES

...'LEAST *LONG* ENOUGH FOR ME TO LAUNCH MY CONTRAPTION!

THAT WHEEL IS PROPELLING A CANISTER ATTACHED TO A *DETONATOR--!*

MY GOD -- THERE'S ENOUGH EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL TO--

WHERE IS *LOIS LANE!* NO MORE *GAMES*, MISTER!

CALM *DOWN*, AMIGO -- I *TELE-PORTED* HER A *SAFE* DISTANCE AWAY FROM HERE...

THAT'S ALL I NEEDED TO *KNOW.*

CLEANERS

WAIT! LEAVE IT *BE.*

I JUST CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO CONDUCT SOMETHING THIS BIG OUTSIDE OF THE PROPER CHANNELS, *CAN* I?

THERE. THAT SHOULD DEFUSE IT.

I'M NO CHEMIST, BUT IT APPEARED THAT MANNING *DID* DE-TOXIFY THAT LANDFILL--MAYBE HE *IS* ON TO SOME-THING...

OKAY, YOU'VE GOT A MINUTE TO TELL ME WHAT'S *IN* THIS TANK AND HOW IT *WOULD'VE* HELPED THIS TOWN...

WISH YOU'D ASKED *BEFORE* YOU BOTCHED IT ALL UP, BUT...

YOU'VE GOT FIFTY SECONDS LEFT--EXPLAIN.

OKAY, OKAY. IT'S LIKE THIS-- THAT TANK'S FILLED WITH AN ENZYME WHICH WILL BIND ITSELF TO THE OFFENDING SUBSTANCES.

...HERE, IN LOOKOUT PEAK, IT'S *PCBs* AND VARIOUS DIOXINS, ALL EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, THAT THE ENZYME WILL TARGET.

THE PLAN WAS TO DETONATE THE CANNISTER HIGH OVER THE TOWN, TO SPREAD THE ENZYME IN THE LARGEST POSSIBLE RADIUS...

...AND YOU CHOSE TODAY BECAUSE OF THE LOW WINDS.

YOU GOT THAT ONE, PARD. LOOKIE HERE -- THIS PLACE IS USELESS TO ANYONE LIKE THIS-- GIVE ME A CHANCE TO CHANGE THAT...

WEATHER SERVICE CHARTS A STORM FRONT CLOSING IN ON US, AND I'VE ALREADY TAKEN *TWO* MINUTES OF YOUR TIME...

YOU TRANSPORTED MISS LANE SAFELY AWAY?

THAT I DID, THOUGH LIKE I TOLD YOU, THE STUFF TARGETS *ONLY* THE POLLUTANTS...

I'M TAKING A CHANCE ON THIS, BUT I STILL EXPECT YOU TO GIVE YOURSELF UP.

I GIVE YOU MY *WORD.*

FLY 'ER UP FIVE HUNDRED FEET AND DETONATE IT WITH THAT *HEAT* VISION OF YOURS...

I'LL SEE YOU AT THE POLICE STATION IN THE NEXT TOWN -- EAST ERBAN.

"THIS WILL WORK, SUPERMAN. THE LEXCORP DUMP WAS THE TEST..."

ARE THINGS SO DESPERATE, THAT I SHOULD THROW CAUTION TO THE WIND...

...IN THE FAINT HOPE FOR A *QUICK FIX* TO A GLOBAL PROBLEM?

SOMETIMES YOU'VE JUST GOT TO TAKE A CHANCE...

SHOOOOM

'THOUGH I'LL HEDGE MY BETS AND MAKE SURE THIS STUFF DOESN'T DRIFT INTO NEIGH-BORING TOWNS...

"MANNING BETTER BE GOOD AS HIS WORLD."

FIRST I'M WHISKED AWAY BY THAT WEIRDO TORNADO...

NOW WHAT--?

WARNING

ERBAN
4 MILE

DON'T FRET NONE, LITTLE LADY.

TERRA-MAN!

YOU AND I HAVE A DATE WITH SUPERMAN AT THE ERBAN POLICE STATION, DARLIN'.

CUT THE HICK ACT, TEX-- WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHERE'S SU--

CAN I OFFER YOU TWO A *LIFT* TO THE NEXT TOWN? MR. MANNING AND I HAVE AN AGREEMENT TO FULFILL.

I'LL MEET YOU-- I'VE GOT MY CAR PARKED AROUND HERE *SOMEWHERE!*

AND SO... ENOUGH TALKIN', PAL. FEDERAL MARSHAL'S HERE TO TAKE YOU.

ERBAN COUNTY SHERIFF

TREAT ME *SQUARE*, MISS LANE-- I'M NOT A *BAD* GUY.

I'LL SEE IF I CAN GET ***S.T.A.R.*** LABS TO MONITOR LOOKOUT PEAK FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, TOBY.

YOU DO THAT, AMIGO. I *KNOW* WE DID SOME-THING GOOD BACK THERE.

HE'LL DO *TIME* FOR THE DEATH OF THAT LEXCORP EXEC.

HIS TRIAL ALONE SHOULD HELP RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE TOXIC WASTE PROBLEM...

"MAYBE THERE'S STILL A CHANCE FOR ALL OF THE OTHER PLACES LIKE LOOKOUT PEAK."

DANGER
TOXIC CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION

"HECK, MAYBE THERE'S EVEN A CHANCE FOR LOOKOUT PEAK!"

N · E · X · T

READ THE **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN # 475** FEATURING THE RETURN OF *LOADS* OF THE MAN OF STEEL'S MOST HEINOUS VILLAINS, THEN IN **ACTION COMICS #662**, THE SILVER BANSHEE'S BACK... BLAZE, TOO... OH, AND CLARK KENT TELLS LOIS LANE SOMETHING REALLY, *REALLY* IMPORTANT! AAANNND, FINALLY, BE BACK *HERE* NEXT MONTH FOR **SUPERMAN #53** "TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND THE AMERICAN WAY."

GOOD. VERY GOOD.

THIS FACILITY YOU'VE BUILT WILL SERVE US WELL.

WAS THERE *EVER* ANY DOUBT IT *WOULDN'T?*

EVERYTHING WE INSTALLED IS FIRST-RATE, STATE OF THE ART!

AND NOBODY WILL EVER PENETRATE THIS *SECURITY SYSTEM!*

YOU EXPECT TROUBLE, LITTLE MAN?

WE *ALWAYS* EXPECT TROUBLE. IT'S *GOOD* POLICY TO BE PREPARED FOR *ANYTHING.*

OUR PLANS ARE *FOOLPROOF.* OUR SECRETS WELL CAMOUFLAGED--

--UNLESS *SOMEONE* GETS REAL LUCKY.

IF YOU ARE REFERRING TO *SUPERMAN,* I BELIEVE WE HAVE THE NECESSARY WEAPONS TO REPEL HIS INFERNAL INTERFERENCE!

EXACTLY WHY WE BUSTED YOU OUT OF JAIL, SCHOTT!

YOU'RE *PERFECT* FOR AN OPERATION LIKE THIS!

THIS PLACE WAS A DESOLATE, BURNED UP SHAMBLES OF AN AMUSEMENT PARK UNTIL WE BOUGHT AND UPGRADED IT!

IN FIVE MINUTES, WHEN THE PUBLIC STARTS POURING THROUGH THE GATES FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER--

--IT WILL BECOME *INTERGANG'S* GREATEST ASSET!

CLIK

LADY AND GENTLEMEN, I GIVE YOU THE *NEW* AND *IMPROVED*--

--HAPPYLAND!

AMERICA'S PREEMINENT INDOOR AMUSEMENT PARK, RIGHT HERE IN METROPOLIS!

IT MIGHT LOOK *LEGIT*, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY THE *BEST* CASH LAUNDERING OPERATION EVER DEVISED!

INTERGANG'S DRUG PROFITS, PROTECTION PROFITS, EVERY CENT OF ILLEGAL INCOME WE HAVE--

--CAN BE FUNNELLED THROUGH THIS PARK. RIGHT, GILLESPIE?

BRILLIANT, MANNHEIM! I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR PICKING ME TO RUN THIS OPERATION!

ISN'T IT EXCITING, KILLGRAVE? THINK OF THE *FUN* ALL THE CHILDREN SHALL HAVE HERE!

BAH! WHO *CARES* ABOUT THE LITTLE WHINERS?

HAPPYLAND

THIS PARK IS A TECHNOLOGICAL *MARVEL*, TOYMAN! ONE, ONLY MY GENIUS COULD HAVE ENGINEERED!

PERHAPS. BUT YOU LACKED THE IMAGINATION TO CREATE ATTRACTIONS THAT WOULD STIMULATE THE CHILDREN!

CUT THE SQUABBLIN', BOYS!

YOU TWO MADE THE *PERFECT* TEAM TO BUILD HAPPYLAND.

DON'T BLOW IT NOW!

AND SINCE *LUTHOR* IS PUSHIN' UP DAISIES--

--INTERGANG IS READY TO CLAIM METROPOLIS AS ITS OWN!

SLEAZE FACTOR

WORDS AND PICTURES: DAN JURGENS
FINISHED INKS: ART THIBERT
LETTERS: ALBERT DE GUZMAN
COLORS: GLENN WHITMORE
ASSISTANT: DAN THORSLAND
SHOTGUN: MIKE CARLIN
SUPERMAN CREATORS:
JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER

SSSO...

AT LAST HAPPYLAND RE-OPENS ITS GATES.

THE UNWITTING FOOLS HAVE PROTECTED THEMSELVES FROM *OUTSIDE* THREATS--

--COMPLETELY IGNORING THE *INSIDE*!

THEY'VE ALSO BROUGHT ME THAT WHICH I SO DESPERATELY CRAVE--

--THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF *INNOCENTS*!

COUNTLESS FACES RIPE FOR VICTIMIZATION AND EXPLOITATION!

AND THE ULTIMATE BEAUTY OF IT ALL--

-- WITH AN ILLEGAL OPERATION LIKE *HAPPYLAND*--

--THOSE CRIMINALS WILL *NEVER* CONTACT THE AUTHORITIES!

DO NOT ENTER

NORAD

I APPRECIATE YOUR MEETING ME HERE, DR. KELLEY.

WITH ALL THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING, I HAVE A LOT QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERING.

LUNCH SPECIAL

"HAPPENING", MR. KENT?

RUMOR HAS IT THAT LEX LUTHOR'S DEATH HAS HAD SOME FAR-REACHING EFFECTS.

CONSIDERING YOUR RECENT *BADGERING* OF MR. LUTHOR* YOUR CONCERN SEEMS QUESTIONABLE.

*SUPERMAN #50.

MY CONCERN IS FOR THE *700* OR SO PEOPLE THAT LEXCORP HAS REPORTEDLY LAID OFF--

--AND THE CHAOS THE CORPORATION MAY NOW BE IN.

I SUPPOSE THE TRAGIC RESULTS OF LUTHOR'S PASSING CAN NO LONGER REMAIN SECRET.

YOU SEE, MR. KENT, LUTHOR'S APPARENTLY LEFT NO WILL--NO EFFECTIVE MEANS OF RUNNING LEXCORP IN CASE OF HIS DEMISE.

YOU'RE KIDDING! HOW CAN SUCH A POWERFUL CORPORATION BE *PARALYZED?*

LUTHOR RAN HIS COMPANY LIKE AN IRON FISTED DICTATOR! EXECUTIVES KNEW BITS AND PIECES ABOUT LEXCORP'S OPERATION--

--BUT HE PERMITTED *NO ONE* ACCESS TO THE WHOLE PICTURE!

"HIS DEATH HAS LEFT LEXCORP TIED UP LEGALLY--"

"--FORCING THE BOARD TO SELL PROFITABLE SUBSIDIARIES JUST TO KEEP IT AFLOAT!"

BUT LEXCORP IS SUCH AN ESSENTIAL PART OF METROPOLIS' ECONOMY THAT IF IT SHOULD FAIL--

--THOUSANDS WOULD SUFFER!

FRANKLY, MR. KENT--

"--METROPOLIS WILL SUFFER AS NEVER BEFORE!"

HOW SO?

LEXCORP IS SO LARGE THAT IT'S INVOLVED IN EVERY FACET OF METROPOLIS' DAILY LIFE.

"SOME HAVE SPECULATED THAT LUTHOR OPERATED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE LAW--

TICKE

"--AND THAT HIS DOMINEERING PRESENCE HERE GUARANTEED ORDER."

IMAGINE, IF YOU WILL, THE FORCES UNLEASHED WITHOUT THAT ORDER.

WITHOUT LEX LUTHOR AS THE KEYSTONE OF METROPOLIS' INFRASTRUCTURE--

"--I GUARANTEE WE SHALL SEE QUITE A CHANGE, SOON! METROPOLIS MAY EVEN FALL BELOW GOTHAM CITY'S SQUALID LEVELS!"

JIMMY...

CLICK

JUST A SEC, LUCY.

I'M NOT SURE, BUT I MIGHT HAVE SEEN A KIDNAPPING!

KIDNAPPING?! HERE? C'MON, LET'S TAKE A LOOK!

I CAN'T BUY THAT. WHAT ABOUT THE POLICE AND SUPERMAN?

SUPERMAN IS A FORCE OF NATURE, HE HAS LITTLE EFFECT ON MAN-MADE REALITIES...

...LIKE THE ECONOMY OF A CITY THE SIZE OF METROPOLIS.

SUPERMAN IS MERELY POWERFUL... HERE LUTHOR WAS ESSENTIAL TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US IN THIS CITY.

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING THAT LOOKS SUSPICIOUS. YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

SURE ENOUGH TO CALL THE POLICE!

SORRY, DR. KELLEY BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR PESSIMISTIC PREDICTIONS!

MY PESSIMISM IS FORMED BY *REALISM*, MR. KENT.

IT MAY TAKE TIME, BUT MARK MY WORDS--

"--THE METROPOLIS WE KNOW WILL SOON BE GONE FOREVER!"

-MMMPH!-

-UNNNGH!-

DROP WHATEVER YOU'RE WORKING ON, BOYS!

WE GOT TROUBLE IN HAPPYLAND--

--AND *WE'VE* GOT TO DO *SOMETHING*!

THERE ARE DOZENS OF NERVOUS PARENTS REPORTING KIDS MISSING THROUGHOUT THE PARK!

WHY BOTHER US WITH THIS? GET SOME *BLOODHOUNDS* TO TRACK DOWN THE LITTLE URCHINS!

SHUSH, KILLGRAVE. LET'S HEAR GILLESPIE OUT.

LOOK, GUYS, IF *SOMETHIN'* HAPPENS TO THESE KIDS WE'LL HAVE COPS CRAWLIN' ALL OVER! WE GOTTA FIND 'EM *FIRST*!!

WHO CARES?

I CARE, MISTER KILLGRAVE!

I HAD A BAD *FEELING* THAT *SOMETHING* MIGHT HAPPEN TO THE CHILDREN IN HAPPYLAND...

...AND NOW I FEAR I SHOULD HAVE HEEDED MY WORRIES FOR THEIR SAFETY.

THERE IS AN *EVIL* IN OUR MIDST, GENTLEMEN...

ONE THAT WE MUST SEEK OUT AND *ERADICATE*--

"--BEFORE SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENS TO THE CHILDREN."

AT LONG LAST YOU RETURN, MY LITTLE FRIEND.

AND WITH NEW PLAYMATES, AS WELL.

WELCOME, MY PRETTIES. I AM SLEEZ.

HOW FORTUNATE YOU CAME TO HAPPYLAND SEEKING *FUN*--

--FOR I ASSURE YOU WILL PROVIDE ME WITH A *GREAT DEAL* OF IT!

YOU THINK YOU'RE HOT STUFF, BUILDING ALL THIS UNDER HAPPYLAND--

-- BUT YOU WON'T LAST LONG BEFORE SOMEONE PICKS YOU UP AND TOSSES YOU OUT WITH THE REST OF THE TRASH IN THIS SEWER!

NO ONE WILL *DARE* MOVE AGAINST ME! DARKSEID OF APOKOLIPS HIMSELF HAS BEEN UNABLE TO HINDER OR HARNESS MY DEPRAVITY!

APOKOLIPS?! SUPERMAN *TOLD* ME ABOUT THAT PLACE!

NUTS! IF ONLY I HAD MY SIGNAL WATCH I COULD CALL SUPERMAN--

--AND BAIL US OUT OF THIS JAM!

DR. KELLEY GAVE ME A LOT TO CONSIDER. LUTHOR'S DEATH HAS REPERCUSSIONS I'D NEVER EXPECTED.

:SQUAK: OFFICER JENNINGS?

:SQUAK: SOME ANXIOUS PARENTS ARE REPORTING MISSING CHILDREN AT HAPPYLAND. BETTER CHECK IT OUT!

HAPPYLAND? PROBABLY NOTHING BUT IT WON'T HURT TO TAKE A LOOK.

JIMMY *BEGGED* FOSWELL TO COVER THE OPENING. UNFORTUNATELY I CAN USUALLY COUNT ON *HIM* TO BE WHERE THE *ACTION* IS!

OH, BROTHER! THE FRONT GATE JUST REPORTED A COUPLE O' COPS ON THE WAY!

WE'RE *DONE* FOR! MANNHEIM'S GONNA *SKIN* ME ALIVE!

THIS IS TOO *MUCH*! HOW CAN A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR OPERATION BE JEOPARDIZED BY SOME MISSING *BRATS*?

A *SOULLESS* CUR LIKE YOU WOULD *NEVER* UNDERSTAND!

BUT WE MUST *FIND* THE DOOR LITTLE DEARS--

--AND IF IT COSTS INTERGANG HAPPYLAND-- *SO BE IT!*

TOYMAN, WHAT'RE YOU *DOING*?!

"WHAT I HAVE TO, KILLGRAVE! I'VE TURNED LOOSE A FEW LITTLE SECRET WEAPONS I'D PLANTED BECAUSE OF MY FEELING OF FOREBODING.

"PERHAPS THEY WILL BE ABLE TO LOCATE THE CHILDREN!"

HEY, THAT'S *COOL*! I DIDN'T KNOW THOSE THINGS COULD *MOVE*!

THEY AREN'T *SUPPOSED* TO! *RUN*!

MY, MY, SUCH A *REACTION*. IF YOU DESIRE YOUR PUPS RETURNED, WHY NOT SIMPLY *ASK*?

WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU AND HOW DID YOU INFILTRATE OUR SYSTEM?

OUR COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM BREACHED? *UNTHINKABLE*!

SUCH A GHASTLY-LOOKING CREATURE! IF HE HARMS THE CHILDREN--

FORGET THOSE BLASTED KIDS! WE GOT *BIGGER* TROUBLES, TOYMAN--

"--SUPERMAN JUST SHOWED UP!"

SKREEEE

MISSING KIDS... TOWERING, WALKING ROBOTS NEARLY TRAMPLING PEOPLE...

...SOMETHING IS *DEFINITELY* ROTTEN IN HAPPYLAND!

I THINK IT'S TIME TO TURN THIS DISASTER TO OUR *ADVANTAGE!*

AND IF I KNOW YOU, TOYMAN, YOUR LITTLE "TOYS" ARE PROBABLY WELL EQUIPPED TO TANGLE WITH SUPERMAN!

THE SURPRISES DON'T STOP COMING!

BDAMM BDOWW

WHY SHOULD AN AMUSEMENT PARK HAVE ROBOTS WITH WORKING WEAPONS?

THERE'S MORE HERE THAN MEETS THE EYE!

I CAN FRY THIS SHRAPNEL BEFORE IT DOES ANY REAL DAMAGE WITH MY HEAT VISION EASY ENOUGH--

--BUT I BETTER MOVE THE FIGHT AWAY BEFORE SOMEBODY DOWN THERE DOES GET HURT!

LOOKS LIKE MORE OF THESE HAPPYLAND MASCOTS ARE GETTING INTO THE ACT!

WHO WOULD BUILD SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

SKRAK

LUTHOR IS DEAD...MAYBE MXYZPTLK IS THE CULPRIT!

AN AMUSEMENT PARK WOULD BE RIGHT UP HIS ALLEY!

BWOOM

I THINK I CAN USE THIS SWORD TIP--

--TO PUT ONE OF THESE GUYS OUT OF BUSINESS.' NORMALLY I LIKE TO AVOID DAMAGING PROPERTY--

--BUT IT DOESN'T TAKE A DETECTIVE WITH BATMAN'S SKILLS TO SEE THINGS AREN'T QUITE KOSHER HERE!

OH, GOD... I MIGHT AS WELL KILL MYSELF AND SAVE MANNHEIM THE TROUBLE!

IT'S A REASONABLE ASSUMPTION THAT SLEEZ HAS THE CHILDREN ON THE PREMISES, BUT WHERE? UNLESS...

FINALLY, I CAN BE RID OF THE MAN OF STEEL FOREVER!

DIE, SUPERMAN!

DIE, DIE--

--DIE!!!

GREAT! BLUE BEARD HERE HAS *ALREADY* SHEARED A TOWER IN HALF BEFORE I COULD MOVE THE FIGHT AWAY!

ZZKKKL

-UNNF!- GOT TO THIS ONE BEFORE IT DID ANY HARM... BUT IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE *SOMEONE* GETS NAILED!

OPENING DAY LIKE THIS, THERE MUST BE TENS OF THOUSANDS HERE!

ALL OF YOU-- HEAD FOR SAFETY WHILE YOU STILL CAN!

IF YOU SAY SO, SUPERMAN... BUT I THOUGHT THIS WAS PART OF THE *SHOW*!

ME TOO! LIKE THOSE HOLLYWOOD THEME PARKS!

MAYBE IT IS! COULD HAPPYLAND HAVE BEEN SOME KIND OF DIVERSION TO GET ME HERE?

UH-OH! NOW WHAT?

OH, I GET IT-- DOUBLE FEATURE TIME!

KING KONG VERSUS THE BLACK PIRATE!

WELL, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS SCENARIO ALREADY--

--SO I'LL JUST HAVE TO SHOW THEM SOME REAL SPECIAL EFFECTS!

BURN, TIN MAN!

aooga

FWOOOSH

AND AS FOR YOU, KONG--

--IT'S TWO THUMBS DOWN, AND OUT, FOR YOU!

LET'S SEE YOU CLIMB THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING NOW!

AIEEEE! THAT BIG, BLUE BUFFOON IS TRASHING THE ROBOT SENTRIES LIKE THEY WERE CHEAP MODEL KITS!

I CANNOT LET THIS HAPPEN -- I MUST FIND SOME WAY TO DEFEAT HIM!

ONE OF THESE BUTTONS HAS TO BE ABLE TO DESTROY SUPERMAN!

OH, COME ON! THIS IS REALLY GETTING TO BE TOO MUCH!

GIANT PIRATES AND COWBOYS I CAN UNDERSTAND--

-- BUT TEDDY BEARS?

GIVE ME A BREAK!

MOO

CAN'T GET CARRIED AWAY WITH THESE RIDICULOUS ROBOTS, THOUGH! IT'S POSSIBLE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED--

WAIT... TEDDY BEARS... KIDNAPPED CHILDREN...

"... I THINK I JUST FIGURED OUT WHICH SLEAZE IS BEHIND ALL THIS!"

LOOK, SLEEZ, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH ME BUT LET THE GIRL GO, OKAY?

PERISH THE THOUGHT!

MY QUEEN ASH CRAWLER FROM APOKOLIPS HAS GONE TOO LONG WITHOUT A DECENT MEAL!

AND CONSIDERING HER INSATIABLE APPETITE--

--IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST THE TWO OF YOU TO SATISFY HER!

AND IF THERE ARE *LEFTOVERS* THEN MAYBE I'LL LET THESE HUNGRY KIDDIES FIGHT OVER THE SCRAPS!

EWWW!

UCHH!

FIRST BLOODSPORT, THEN BLAZE'S AND NOW THIS! SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS GETTING ME IN TROUBLE!

SORRY, LUCE! I FIGURED COVERING THE HAPPYLAND OPENING WOULD BE A *GOOD* TIME!

BACK AWAY, KILLGRAVE... I WILL DO WHAT IS NEEDED WITH THESE ROBOTS!

TOYMAN, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND? I WAS ON THE VERGE OF OBLITERATING SUPERMAN HIMSELF--

--AND YOU'VE CALLED THEM OFF!

THINK, KILLGRAVE! AGAINST THE MAN OF STEEL THESE ROBOTS ARE USELESS! IF WE USE THEM TO LOCATE THE CHILDREN, HOWEVER--

"--WE MAY VERY WELL DIVERT HIS ATTENTION AWAY FROM US!"

WEIRD! TEDDY THERE HAS TURNED AWAY FROM ME!

AND HE'S RIPPING UP A HUGE CHUNK OF PAVEMENT! HAVE TO STOP HIM BEFORE--! HUH?

AMAZING! THAT'S NOT THE GUY I THOUGHT WAS BEHIND ALL THIS!

SLEEZ!

HE'S THE ONE WHO CAPTURED ALL THOSE KIDS... AND JIMMY AND LUCY TOO!

HAVE TO GET DOWN THERE AND PREVENT THAT SICKO FROM--

WAK-K-T

:UGH.!: GUESS I WAS WRONG ABOUT BLUEBEARD BEING OUT OF COMMISSION!

PERFECT! *PERFECT!* SUPERMAN WILL LAND JUST WHERE I WANT!

YOU IDIOT! SUPERMAN WAS ABOUT TO RESCUE THE CHILDREN!

KTOMM

BRAMM

HEY! I CERTAINLY AM GLAD TO SEE *YOU* FOLKS! WITH ALL THE CRAZINESS HERE I COULD USE A HAND!

THERE'S NO WAY THESE GUY'SLL BE ABLE TO STAND UP TO THE WHOLE JUSTICE LEA--

:UHN!:

SWACK

I CAN HEAR YOUR HYDRAULICS AND ELECTRONICS. "FRIENDS"!

NEXT TIME SOMEBODY EXPECTS ME TO HOLD BACK, THEY BETTER MAKE THE ROBOTS A BIT MORE CONVINCING!

FZZAT

THERE'S NO MORE DEPRAVED CREATURE IN ALL THE UNIVERSE!

THIS MUST BE HAPPYLAND'S HALL OF HEROES, OR SOMETHING!

CAN'T HELP BUT BE WORRIED! IF SLEEZ IS INVOLVED, THIS SITUATION IS FAR WORSE THAN I EXPECTED!

CONTROL YOUR ANGER, SUPERMAN! I HAVE DEACTIVATED THESE INSTRUMENTS OF VIOLENCE!

TOYMAN! I KNEW IT! I KNEW YOU WERE INVOLVED IN THIS!

NOT AS YOU MIGHT BELIEVE, SUPERMAN... AND I IMPLORE YOU TO HEAR ME OUT!

YOU HAVE THIRTY SECONDS BEFORE I LOSE IT, TOYMAN!

A WALKING EMBODIMENT OF EVIL NAMED SLEEZ HAS KIDNAPPED SOME CHILDREN! HE--

I'VE ALREADY SEEN THE CREEP, SCHOTT. HE'S A MARKED MAN NOW.

WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE IN ALL OF THIS?

PLEASE... CONSIDER ME AN ALLY! I CONTROL THE PARK ROBOTS WITH THIS REMOTE AND CAN USE THEM TO ASSIST YOU!

BY THE ETERNAL FIRES OF APOKOLIPS! THEY'VE *FOUND* ME!

I GOT TOO GREEDY-- TOOK *TOO MANY* AT ONCE!

WHO KNOWS HOW LONG I COULD'VE OPERATED HERE--IF I'D ONLY CONTROLLED MYSELF!

RESCUED BY A GIANT *TEDDY BEAR*?! JIMMY-- WHAT'S GOING *ON* HERE?

YOU'RE ASKIN' ME, LUCE? BUT, HEY, IF YOU ASK ME--

-- I SAY WE TAKE THE HAND NOW, AND ASK QUESTIONS LATER!

I-IF YOU SAY SO... Y-YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH STUFF LIKE THIS BEFORE.

AND CONSIDERING THE OPTIONS-- I'D ACTUALLY LIKE TO *LIVE* ENOUGH TO GO THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THIS AGAIN! C'MON!

HURRY, MY PET! LET THESE SUCCULENT WHELPS SATISFY YOUR HUNGER FOR NOW--

--FOR IT'S LOOKING LIKE IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE YOU GET TO DINE ON THEIR LIKES AGAIN!

MOMMEEEEEEY!

AIEEE! HELP! *HELP!*

DON'T WORRY, HONEY. HELP IS HERE!

FWOOSH

BY DARKSEID'S SHADOW!

WHEN I'M DONE WITH YOU, SLEEZ--

--YOU'LL THINK DARKSEID'S AN *ANGEL* COMPARED TO ME!

HANG ON, KIDS! I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF THIS MESS PRONTO!

COOL! IT REALLY IS *SUPERMAN*!

YOUR THREATS ARE *HOLLOW*, KRYPTONIAN! BY THE TIME YOU SAVE THOSE PUPS FROM MY ASH CRAWLER--

--I'LL BE *LONG* GONE!

JIMMY, WHERE ARE YOU *GOING*?

SUPERMAN'S TOO BUSY TO NAB SLEEZ AND WE CAN'T LET THAT SLIME BUCKET GET AWAY--

--SO I'M GONNA DOG HIM ALL THE WAY!

MAN, THAT BLOB IS A LOT FASTER THAN HE LOOKS!

WITH THINGS FALLING APART WE HAVE ONE PRIORITY, GILLESPIE!

I'M LISTENING, MANNHEIM!

ABOVE ALL ELSE, HAPPYLAND MUST CONTINUE TO OPERATE! NOW, HERE'S WHAT WE'LL DO...

THERE, THERE, SWEETIE! THESE NASTY OLD MONSTERS WON'T BOTHER YOU EVER AGAIN!

P-PROMISE?

CROSS MY HEART AND HOPE TO DIE!

O-OKAY!

WEIRD! I THOUGHT SURE THAT SLEEZ WOULD BEAT FEET TO THE NEAREST EXIT!

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING TO HIDE IN THE MOON CITY ROCKET RIDE INSTEAD! HE'LL BE A SITTING DUCK!

UNLESS...

OF COURSE! THAT CRAZY-LOOKIN' THING IS A WHOLE LOT MORE THAN JUST A RIDE--

--IT'S AN HONEST-TO-GOSH, REAL-LIFE *ROCKET SHIP!*

SLEEZ IS GONNA MAKE A CLEAN GET AWAY!

WOOOOMS

SLEEZ HASN'T ACCELERATED TO FULL SPEED YET! I'VE GOT HIM DEAD TO RIGHTS!

THANKS FOR THE ESCAPE ROUTE, INTERGANG!

NO! NO! NO!

THAT WAS MY ESCAPE SHIP!

SO... I SEE YOU BUILT IN A SECRET OR TWO OF YOUR OWN, EH, MR. KILLGRAVE!

AND SINCE YOU'VE EMPLOYED ESCAPE ROCKETS IN YOUR WORK BEFORE, IT WAS *EASY* FOR THAT MONSTER TO HAVE MONITORED YOUR WORK ON THIS ONE.

NEVERTHELESS, GENTLEMAN, WITH THE CHILDREN SAFE IT'S NOW TIME TO CONCENTRATE ON EXTRICATING OURSELVES FROM THIS MORASS...

AND AS FAR AS THIS MR. SLEEZ IS CONCERNED I KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO UNDO HIS FLIGHT.

LIKE SLEEZ, I WAS AWARE OF YOUR HISTORY AND SECRETS, KILLGRAVE--

--MOST IMPORTANT, YOUR ESCAPE ROCKET'S DELICATELY BALANCED FUEL MIXTURES!

FOR DARING TO HARM SUCH SWEET, INNOCENT CHILDREN, SLEEZ--

"--I SENTENCE YOU TO DEATH."

WHAT'S THAT? ALMOST SMELLS LIKE LEAKING FUEL OR--

NO SIGNS OF LIFE EITHER. SLEEZ *MUST* BE DEAD AFTER A BLAST LIKE THAT!

BETTER HEAD DOWN AND SEE WHAT KIND OF EXPLANATION MANAGEMENT HAS FOR ALL OF THIS!

WITH ALL THE PARK GOERS GONE I'LL ASSUME YOU'RE MANAGEMENT!

STEADY NOW, GIL, OL' BOY...

MANAGER *AND* OWNER, SUPERMAN! AND A VERY UPSET ONE AT THAT!

WHEN I THINK OF THAT LITTLE GREEN SCUM INFILTRATING MY PARK TO TERRORIZE CHILDREN, I WANNA *KILL HIM!*

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN *TOYMAN* AND HIS MECHANICAL WATCH DOGS?

THINK, MAN, *THINK!*

I HAD NO *IDEA* HE WAS THE TOYMAN! SAID HIS NAME WAS SCOTT WINSLOW. HE CONVINCED ME THAT THESE GIANT ROBOTS WOULD BE A GREAT ATTRACTION!

WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THEY WERE *OFFENSIVE WEAPONS?*

WHAT NOW? DO YOU INTEND TO CLOSE UP, MR... UH...

NAME'S *GILLEY*, AND I'LL *NEVER* CLOSE HAPPYLAND! I WAS VICTIMIZED BY A BAD APPLE EMPLOYEE AND SOME MONSTER IN MY DRAINAGE SYSTEM!

I'LL REBUILD AND REOPEN--AFTER I'VE FOUND *PROPER* HELP!

SLEEZ SURE SEEMED TO ME TO BE ACTING ALONE! I DOUBT THIS GUY HAD ANY IDEA HE WAS AROUND!

IT WOULD HARDLY BE IN HIS BEST INTERESTS TO VICTIMIZE HIS OWN CUSTOMERS.

LISTEN, I'M GOING TO TRY AND FIND THE TOYMAN, MR. GILLEY...

...AND I SUGGEST YOU SCREEN YOUR EMPLOYEES BETTER FROM NOW ON.

WHEW!

ALSO MAKE SURE YOU TELL THE POLICE *EXACTLY* WHAT YOU TOLD ME.

YOU GOT IT, SUPERMAN! WE'RE KEEPIN' THIS PLACE CLEAN AS A WHISTLE!

LATER...

YOU EXONERATED YOURSELF THIS TIME, GILLESPIE.

TOYMAN WILL "DISAPPEAR" FOR THE TIME BEING...

...WHILE YOU TWO GET BACK TO WORK AND REOPEN THIS PLACE--*FAST!*

AND I'M WARNING YOU... DON'T SCREW UP AGAIN!

YES, SIR!

EPILOGUE

WHAT A DAY, EH, LUCE?

FOR SURE, JIM! I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO HAVE A HEART ATTACK DOWN THERE!

AND FROM WHAT YOU SAY... THIS IS JUST "A DAY AT THE OFFICE" WHEN YOU AND SUPERMAN GET TOGETHER.

DOESN'T HAPPEN *EVERY* TIME, LUCE--BUT MORE OFTEN THAN NOT.

SAY, WOULD YOU MIND WAITING IN THE LOBBY HERE WHILE I GRAB SOMETHING OUTTA MY SAFE-DEPOSIT BOX?

THE WAY TODAY'S GONE I'LL PROBABLY END UP IN THE MIDDLE OF A BANK ROBBERY-- SO HURRY BACK!

MAN... A FEW MONTHS AGO I DIDN'T THINK I'D *EVER* COME BACK FOR THIS...

STILL CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS SO *MAD* AT THE GUY THAT I DECIDED TO DITCH IT!

GUESS IT'S TRUE THAT RED HAIR AND HOT TEMPERS GO TOGETHER! BUT OUR DIFFERENCES ARE BEHIND US NOW--

--AND IT'S TIME TO WEAR THE *WATCH* AGAIN.

MY SUPERMAN SIGNAL WATCH.

I WAS JUST A KID WHEN I MADE THIS...

...BUT EVEN *THEN* SUPERMAN TRUSTED ME TO KEEP IT, AND USE IT WITH DISCRETION.

I CAN'T POSSIBLY TURN MY BACK TO AN *HONOR* LIKE THAT.

THE HONOR OF BEING SUPERMAN'S ONLY TRUSTED PAL.

end

ROGER STERN WRITER

BOB McLEOD ARTIST

BILL OAKLEY LETTERER • GLENN WHITMORE COLORIST

SUPERMAN Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

DAN THORSLAND ASSISTANT

MIKE CARLIN EDITOR

LEX LUTHOR'S DEATH HAS LEFT THIS PLACE IN SUCH A *MESS!* HOW COULD SUCH A POWERFUL CORPORATE LEADER BE SO CARELESS?

FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, LUTHOR *KNEW* THAT HE HAD ONLY A FEW MONTHS LEFT TO LIVE...

...WHY WOULD HE DIE WITHOUT LEAVING A VALID WILL? WHAT WAS HE *THINKING?*

"SECRETS IN THE NIGHT"

ACTION COMICS 662 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ACTION COMICS, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $12.00, Canada $17.00, all other foreign $24.00. U.S. funds only Copyright © 1991 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-6850. Printed in U.S.A.
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Bros. Inc. Company

G-6262

WELL, HE CERTAINLY WASN'T THINKING OF US JUNIOR-LEVEL CORPORATE ATTORNEYS WHO'VE BEEN HANDED THIS JOB!

ON A ROTTEN NIGHT LIKE THIS, I'D MUCH RATHER BE CURLED UP IN FRONT OF A CRACKLING FIRE WITH A MUG OF HOT CHOCOLATE--

--THAN STUCK IN SOME DRAFTY OFFICE TRYING TO FIND SOME WAY FOR MY BOSSES TO KEEP HALF OF LEXCORP OUT OF PROBATE!

LUTHOR'S SEVEN EX-WIVES ALONE COULD PROBABLY... WAIT A MINUTE... WHAT'S *THIS*?

A RAFT OF PAPERS IN *LONGHAND*?!

"BEING OF SOUND AND DISPOSING MIND AND MEMORY, I, LEX LUTHOR, DO HEREBY MAKE, PUBLISH, AND DECLARE..."

OMIGOSH! IF THIS IS FOR REAL, IT CHANGES *EVERYTHING*! THE COMPANY...

"...ALL OF METROPOLIS COULD BE AFFECTED!"

THINK I'LL PACK IT IN. ONLY THING WORSE'N RAININ' CATS AN' DOGS IS HAILIN' CABS! HEH-HEH!

TAXI DUTY

JOEY, THAT GAG WAS OLD WHEN MY *GRANDPA* TOLD IT!

WISH I COULD CALL IT A NIGHT. HAVEN'T SEEN IT THIS BAD SINCE--!

WOOOOOOB

WHOA!

TAXI DUTY

HOLY MOTHER, WHERE'S THIS WIND COMIN' FROM?

AN' THAT HOWL GIVES ME THE CREEPS...

"...SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING DAMNED FROM HERE TO ETERNITY!"

NO! THE POWER INFERNAL IS ON THE RISE ... AND HERE STAND I, UNPREPARED TO MAKE USE OF IT!

WUZZAT, SUNDAY? YOU GOIN' STIR CRAZY ON ME?

HARDLY. MERE INCARCERATION CANNOT BREAK *BARON SUNDAY!*

AH, BUT WOULD THAT I WERE *FREE...*

"...THERE IS A RELEASE OF ENERGIES FROM THE NETHER-REALMS THIS NIGHT!

"...A POWER GREATER THAN ANY MAN'S!"

"WERE A MYSTIC TO CHANNEL THOSE ENERGIES, HE WOULD POSSESS POWER ENOUGH TO ROCK THIS WORLD TO ITS VERY CORE...

POP

POP POP POP

MMM... SORRY TO BREAK THAT OFF, BUT I THINK OUR POPCORN'S READY.

POPCORN? OH... RIGHT. WELL, AS LONG AS WE'RE COMING UP FOR AIR...

...THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TELL YOU, LOIS... SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ME, IF WE'RE GOING TO MARRY...

LET ME GUESS... YOU *SNORE!*

NO... I...

WELL, WHATEVER, I'M SURE WE CAN DEAL WITH IT.

C'MON, TELL ME IN THE KITCHEN!

YOU SEE, LOIS, I...

NOK NOK

WOULD YOU SEE WHO'S AT THE DOOR, CLARK?

BAM BAM BAM

UH, SURE...

...IT'S A LOT EASIER THAN TELLING YOU I'M *SUPERMAN!* BUT I *MUST* TELL YOU...

...WE'RE ALREADY *ENGAGED!* YOU DESERVE TO KNOW BEFORE--!

BAM-KERRACK!

WHUUNGH?!

CLARK? WHAT IS IT?

WHAT--? YOU ARE NOT THE ONE I WANT!

WHERE *IS* HE? WHERE IS THE SUPERMAN?!

CLARK!!

EH?

WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE* TO HIM?

LET HIM GO!!

YOU MAY HAVE HIM, SISTER--

--'TIS CLEAR HE'S OF NO USE TO *ME*!

THE *ONE* I SEEK MUST BE ELSEWHERE!

AND I MUST FIND HIM--

KREESH

--'FORE THE NIGHT IS THROUGH!

OH, NO. NO-NO-NO-NO

UHHN? L-LOIS?

CLARK! YOU'RE ALIVE!

I COULDN'T FIND A PULSE... I--I THOUGHT SHE'D KILLED YOU!

SHE? WHO--?

SILVER BANSHEE! SHE SMASHED RIGHT THROUGH THE DOOR!

WHAT?! WHERE DID SHE GO?!

...OUT HERE AND OFF THE BALCONY. SHE SEEMED TO BE LOOKING FOR SUPERMAN. CLARK, I DON'T UNDER-STAND...

...THE LAST I SAW OF THE BANSHEE WAS ON THAT NORTH CHANNEL ISLAND. I THOUGHT SHE WAS KILLED WHEN HER FAMILY'S CASTLE *BLEW UP.**

WHY WOULD SHE HAVE *COME HERE*... TO *MY* APARTMENT?! COULD SHE BE TRYING TO FIND SUPERMAN THROUGH THE PEOPLE WHO WERE LAST AT THE CASTLE?

I DON'T KNOW, DEAR. THERE'S NO SIGN OF HER NOW...

...BUT SHE WAS OBVIOUSLY TRACKING ME *SOMEHOW*. THANK GOD, SHE DIDN'T SEE THROUGH MY CIVILIAN GUISE.

THIS IS BAD... THIS IS *VERY* BAD. THE BANSHEE CAN KILL WITH HER VOICE. TWICE BEFORE, SHE VERY NEARLY KILLED *ME*...**

* IN SUPERMAN #23.

** IN ACTION #595 & SUPERMAN #17.

...IF SHE'S ON THE LOOSE AGAIN, NO ONE IS SAFE!

CLARK? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

OH... UH... I HAVE TO TRY TO GET WORD OF THIS TO SUPERMAN! HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO STANDS A CHANCE OF STOPPING THE BANSHEE!

BUT SHE *HURT* YOU--! DO YOU HAVE TO GO OUT IN THIS? ISN'T THERE SOMEONE YOU CAN CALL... PROFESSOR HAMILTON OR SOMEBODY?

I'M AFRAID NOT. THIS... IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO, LOIS.

PLEASE...

"...TRUST ME ON THIS."

I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN.

I PROMISE.

CLARK...

...BE CAREFUL.

WHY DIDN'T I SAY IT? WHY DIDN'T I JUST COME OUT AND TELL HER THAT I HAVE TO GO BECAUSE I AM SUPERMAN?

OH, SURE! GREAT IDEA...

..."AND I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I DEAL WITH SILVER BANSHEE, HONEY!" WOULDN'T THAT HAVE REASSURED HER!

BUT I CAN'T GO ON KEEPING THIS A SECRET FROM THE WOMAN I'M GOING TO MARRY! I HAVE TO TELL HER, SOONER OR LATER!

WELL, IT'LL HAVE TO BE LATER NOW. I CAN'T DWELL ON PERSONAL MATTERS WITH THE BANSHEE AT LARGE.

HOW DID SHE TRACK ME TO LOIS'S APARTMENT? AND WHAT DOES SHE WANT?

WHEN SHE FIRST SHOWED HER FACE IN THE CITY, SHE WAS LOOKING FOR A LOST BOOK--

"--THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF HER CLAN. THERE WAS AN ENCHANTMENT ON ITS PAGES.

"SHE WAS DETERMINED TO REGAIN THAT BOOK, AND MORE THAN WILLING TO KILL ANYONE WHO GOT IN HER WAY.

"SHE NEVER DID FIND IT... BUT I DID, THANKS TO THE BATMAN.

"FROM THE BOOK, I LEARNED OF THE CAVES BENEATH CASTLE BROEN-- AND THROUGH ITS ENCHANTMENTS, I RESCUED LOIS AND JIMMY FROM THE BANSHEE...

"...AND CAME FACE TO FACE WITH THE ENTITY WHO HAD GIVEN HER THE POWER... A MYSTERIOUS, ANCIENT CRONE..."

GUARD WELL AGAINST MORTAL VICES, SUPERMAN! AND REMEMBER THAT NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL YOU BECOME... A GREATER POWER THERE WILL ALWAYS BE!

...AND THEN THE CRONE LEVELED THE PLACE! I'D THOUGHT... I'D HOPED THAT WAS THE LAST WE'D EVER SEE OF SILVER BANSHEE.

AS STRONG AS I AM, I'M STILL *VULNERABLE* TO THE SUPER-NATURAL.

YET, FOR ALL HER BIZARRE POWER, BANSHEE WAS ONCE MORTAL... SHE ISN'T ALL-KNOWING, OR SHE WOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT I WAS CLARK KENT.

I HAVE TO SURPRISE HER BEFORE SHE SURPRISES ME AGAIN.

HER WAIL HAS A DISTINCTIVE ULTRASONIC HARMONIC... IF I CAN BLOCK OUT THE EXTRANEOUS SOUND, CONCENTRATE ON THAT FREQUENCY...

EEEEE

THERE! THAT'S IT...

...CAN'T BE MORE THAN TEN BLOCKS AWAY. YES, IT'S COMING FROM...

"...OH, NO..."

EEEEEE

"...THE DAILY PLANET CITY ROOM!!"

DAILY PLANET

EEEEEE

KRA-CHOOM!

WHAT CHICANERY IS THIS?! HIS *PSYCHIC IMPRINT* LINGERS IN THE VERY WALLS--

--BUT HE IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND!

DAILY CITY

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN...

WHERE IS HE? *WHERE?!*

RIGHT *HERE*, BANSHEE!

TERRORIZING THE NIGHT SHIFT WILL GET YOU NOWHERE.

IF YOU WANT ME, COME AND GET ME!

BRAZEN FOOL! DO YOU THINK I WON'T?!

⸗?!?⸗ SHE'S GOTTEN FASTER--!

DIE, SUPERMAN --DIE!!

BTOOM

SCREEEE

HOLEE--! WHAT WAS THAT ?

AT LAST ... IT IS OVER !

NO, BANSHEE... NOT YET...

EH ? WHAT *MORE* WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO ?

TAKE HIM TO THE PLACE OF ATONEMENT!

OMIGOD.

DO SOME-THING !

YOU KIDDIN' ? THAT'S *SUPERMAN* SHE'S TOTALED!

"DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS--"

--IF THE HANDWRITING AND THE WITNESSES' SIGNATURES CAN BE *VERIFIED* ? IT MEANS I'VE FOUND A VALID WILL !

THIS STATE ALLOWS FOR HOLO-GRAPHIC WILLS UNDER--!

I AM WELL AWARE OF THE LAW, MS. FENSTER. AND I AGREE, IT DOES APPEAR TO BE AUTHENTIC.

LUTHOR HAS CLEARLY NAMED HIS HEIR. NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS *FIND* HIM !

"I'M ALMOST AFRAID TO THINK WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT..."

...NO, I'M FINE, LUCY --REALLY! YES, THE SUPERINTENDENT INSTALLED A NEW DOOR AND SEALED OFF THE BALCONY WITH PLYWOOD.

IT'S CLARK I'M WORRIED ABOUT. HE SEEMED ALL RIGHT, BUT WHO KNOWS... THERE MIGHT BE LASTING EFFECTS. AND WITH THIS STORM--!

OH, WONDERFUL! THERE GO THE LIGHTS!

LUCE, I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER-- I HAVE TO FIND MY CANDLES.

'BYE, SIS.

COME ON, ELROY... LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET TO THE UTILITY DRAWER WITHOUT STUBBING MORE THAN ONE TOE.

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.

MRRR-RROWWR

I JUST WISH I KNEW FOR CERTAIN THAT CLARK WAS SAFE AND SOUND.

"HE SLEEPS..."

...AND THOUGH THAT SLEEP SEEMS LIKE UNTO THAT OF THE DEAD--

--LIFE STIRS WITHIN HIS BREAST.

BLAZE'S

HE IS YET A MATCH FOR YOUR POOR POWER, DEAR BANSHEE!

I'LL THANK YOU NOT TO BE REMINDING ME OF PAST FAILURES.

THERE, I'VE BROUGHT HIM TO THIS FOUL PLACE. WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT OF ME?

WANT, CHILD? WHY, I WANT NOTHING MORE THAN TO HELP YOU TRIUMPH OVER YOUR MOST HATED FOES.

OBSERVE...

THAT AXE--!

IN ANSWER TO YOUR UNVOICED QUESTION, IT IS INDEED THE LEGENDARY BATTLE AXE OF THE CLAN McDOUGAL.

IT CANNOT BE! IT WAS LOST TO US FOREVER!

DO YOU DOUBT ME? PICK IT UP.

IT IS THE TRUE RITUAL AXE. BUT HOW DID SUCH AS YOU COME BY IT?

I HAVE MY WAYS.

ALL THAT REMAINS NOW IS FOR YOU TO RAISE THE AXE IN MY NAME!

THROUGH ITS ENCHANTMENTS, THE SO-CALLED MAN OF STEEL MAY BE CUT... AND KILLED!

SACRIFICE HIM UPON MY ALTAR! GIVE ME HIS HEAD, AND OUR BARGAIN WILL BE COMPLETE.

THIS IS A SACRED RELIC. I WOULD GLADLY WIELD IT IN BATTLE... THAT WOULD BE AN HONOR.

BUT... AGAINST AN UNCONSCIOUS VICTIM--?

DO YOU NOT *HATE* THE SUPERMAN, BANSHEE?

DO THIS FOR ME, AND I WILL GIVE YOU ALL THE POWER YOU DE-SIRE...

...THE POWER YOU NEED TO OVERCOME THE CRONE... TO *PUNISH* HER FOR THE WAY SHE HUMBLED YOU BEFORE YOUR ENEMIES!

YOU WANT THAT, *DON'T YOU?*

I... YES.

THEN *STRIKE!* STRIKE *NOW!*

NO...

...I... THINK... *NOT!*

I FELT THE POINT OF THIS PIG-STICKER ONCE BEFORE--*

* IN THE AFOREMENTIONED *SUPERMAN # 23.*

-- I THINK I'LL PASS ON THAT "PLEASURE" AGAIN, THANK YOU!

WHERE THE DEVIL HAS SHE BROUGHT ME?

GOOD LORD, THIS LOOKS LIKE... *YES*, IT'S THE RUINS OF THE OLD ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH!

YOU'VE THWARTED ME FOR THE LAST TIME, YANKEE!

I'LL DRIVE THE LIFE FROM YOUR BODY AND PLUCK THE FLESH FROM YOUR BONES!

DIEEEEEE

NO... *NO!* HOW CAN YOU STILL BE STANDING? AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN STAGGERED!

I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED MYSELF. EITHER THIS AXE'S ENCHANTMENT IS STRONGER THAN YOURS--

--OR I'M BUILDING UP AN *IMMUNITY* TO YOUR SCREAM!

OR PERHAPS IT IS A BIT OF *BOTH*, SUPERMAN!

WHATEVER THE CASE, SILVER BANSHEE HAS *FAILED* AND MUST PAY THE PRICE!

BLAZE! I KNEW YOU WERE MIXED UP IN THIS, THE MOMENT I SAW WHERE WE WERE!

NO, NOT THE AXE!

YOUR ANGER IS SUCH A *DELIGHT*, SUPERMAN -- A PITY I CANNOT STAY TO SAVOR ITS BITE!

BLAZE, DO NOT LEAVE YET!

I'LL NOT FAIL AGAIN!

I SHALL CLEAVE OUR HATED FOE IN TWO --

--IF IT IS THE LAST THING I EVER DO@@@@

IS THIS ANOTHER OF HER PATENTED ESCAPES OR--?

THERE IS NO ESCAPE FOR SILVER BANSHEE...

...SHE HAS PAID THE PRICE FOR HER ALLIANCE WITH THE DARK REALMS.

THE CRONE!

THE WAIL OF THE BANSHEE IS AGAIN STILLED. NO MORE NEED YOU CONCERN YOURSELF WITH HER.

AS I RECALL, YOU MADE A *SIMILAR* PLEDGE THE LAST TIME, CRONE...

...OF COURSE, THAT WAS BEFORE BLAZE BECAME INVOLVED, WASN'T IT? I'VE RUN UP AGAINST THAT SHE-DEVIL BEFORE*--BELIEVE ME, WE HAVE PLENTY OF CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

YOU ONCE TOLD ME THAT NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL I MIGHT BE-COME, THERE'D ALWAYS BE A GREATER POWER... DOESN'T THAT APPLY TO *YOU*, AS WELL?

YOU BEGIN TO GRASP THE THREADS OF A GREATER TRUTH, SUPERMAN. THE FORCE YOU CALL "BLAZE" IS INDEED A CONCERN IN THIS MATTER.

IT BEHOOVES ALL WHO LIVE TO GUARD AGAINST HER DARKNESS...

* IN ACTION #656, SUPERMAN #47, AND ADVENTURES #470.

"... MANY ARE THE DANGERS WHICH LURK THEREIN."

ALMOST DONE, ELROY... LET'S LIGHT THIS ONE EXTRA CANDLE, JUST TO BE SAFE.

THERE, NOW, ISN'T THAT--?

YIIEEE!

IT'S OKAY, LOIS. IT'S JUST ME!

CLARK!

YOU GAVE ME SUCH A START... I DIDN'T EVEN HEAR YOU COME IN!

I'M SORRY, HONEY, I GUESS I WASN'T THINKING. I SHOULD'VE KNOCKED.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M *FINE*. EVERYTHING IS... WELL, UNDER CONTROL, AT LEAST.

SUPERMAN DEALT WITH SILVER BANSHEE, AND WITH ANY KIND OF LUCK, SHE'LL NEVER COME KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR AGAIN.

WHAT A RELIEF.

OH... THE LIGHTS!

MAYBE WE SHOULD TURN THEM OFF AND GO BACK TO THE CANDLES...

NOT JUST YET, LOIS. BEFORE WE DO THAT, THERE'S *SOMETHING* WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT.

LOIS, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT... WELL, I'VE MADE A LOT OF ENEMIES OVER THE YEARS...

BEING MARRIED TO ME MIGHT NOT BE THE SAFEST THING IN THE WORLD.

HEY, YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S RUBBED PEOPLE THE WRONG WAY TO GET A STORY.

I CAN HANDLE IT. I *LOVE* YOU.

AND I LOVE *YOU*, BUT...

...THIS ISN'T EASY TO TALK ABOUT.

DID YOU EVER HAVE A *SECRET*... ONE YOU'D KEPT FOR SO LONG THAT...

... WHEN YOU DID FINALLY CONFIDE IN *SOMEONE*, YOU WERE AFRAID THAT THEY'D TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY?

HAVE I--?! CLARK, YOU WOULDN'T *BELIEVE* SOME OF THE STUNTS I PULLED WHEN I WAS A KID! I'VE NEVER TOLD ANOTHER LIVING SOUL.

MY FATHER WAS FAIRLY STRICT ABOUT CERTAIN THINGS, AND IF HE EVER KNEW--!

IT'S OKAY. I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO TELL ME.

BUT THERE *IS* SOMETHING *I* HAVE TO TELL YOU...

...SOMETHING YOU *MUST* KNOW BEFORE WE MARRY...

CLARK...

LOIS, FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, I'VE LIVED A DOUBLE LIFE--

--USING THE NAME YOU GAVE ME AFTER I WAS FORCED TO USE MY POWERS IN PUBLIC... TO PREVENT THE CRASH OF THAT EXPERIMENTAL SPACE-PLANE.

EVER SINCE THAT DAY, I'VE BEEN BOTH CLARK KENT... AND *SUPERMAN!*

"It takes as much caution to tell the truth as to conceal it." --GRACIAN

NOT THE END

TRUTH, JUSTICE and the AMERICAN WAY

SUPERMAN®

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

JERRY ORDWAY
pencils & scripts
DENNIS JANKE
inks
GLENN WHITMORE
colors
JOHN COSTANZA
letters
DAN THORSLAND
assistant edits
MIKE CARLIN
edits

LOIS, *PLEASE*-- DON'T TURN AWAY...

CLARK KENT AND SUPERMAN-- WE'RE THE *SAME GUY.*

H-HOLD ON-- *SLOW* THIS DOWN, CLARK-- OR SUPERMAN-- OR *WHOEVER* YOU ARE...

I'M CLARK, THE MAN YOU LOVED. SUPERMAN IS THE CREATION--YOU NAMED ME, LOIS.

DON'T YOU SEE--I COULDN'T CONTINUE THIS DECEPTION WITH YOU--NOT NOW.

LOIS?

LOOK, CLARK--MY HEAD'S STILL SPINNING...

IT'S A LOT TO TAKE IN...

...AND IT'S NOT THAT I'M SHOCKED--ACTUALLY I'M KIND OF RELIEVED...

IT EXPLAINS AWAY A LOT OF YOUR ERRATIC BEHAVIOR...

I MEAN, IT'S LIKE A PUZZLE THAT SUDDENLY MAKES SENSE BECAUSE THE MISSING PIECE IS FINALLY IN PLACE...

IN MY HEART I THINK I'VE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME, BUT MY BRAIN WOULD ALWAYS DISMISS THE NOTION.

SUSPECTING SOMETHING AND ACTING ON IT ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS...

IT'S FRIGHTENING TO HAVE IT CONFIRMED THAT YOU'RE NOT JUST WRITING NOVELS IN YOUR SPARE TIME...

...THAT THE SAME MAN I'M PLANNING ON MARRYING IS ACTUALLY AN ALIEN FROM ANOTHER PLANET...

HOW DOES THAT IMPACT ON US BEING HUSBAND AND WIFE, FOR GOD'S SAKE?

I DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS, LOIS...

I JUST KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU, AND WANT TO SHARE MY LIFE WITH YOU.

I LOVE YOU TOO--I JUST DON'T KNOW *WHAT* IT TAKES TO BE A WIFE TO A *SUPERMAN.*

I'M SO SORRY I DIDN'T *TELL* YOU SOONER.

I *KNOW.* YOU *COULDN'T.* CLARK, PLEASE GIVE ME TIME TO SORT THIS THROUGH...

I GUESS I EXPECTED THIS.

ALL RIGHT.

I SHOULD PROBABLY GO NOW...

I THINK THAT WOULD BE BEST.

WHEN YOU GO, DON'T FORGET TO LOCK THE DOOR--

OR, *UM,* THE WINDOW.

I *KNEW* THIS WOULD HAPPEN--BUT SHE HAD TO KNOW THE *TRUTH...*

CLIC

THE PENTAGON, WASHINGTON, DC, ONE DAY LATER...

THE *GENERAL* WILL SEE YOU NOW.

NORTH ATLA TIC TR

I HOPE WE DIDN'T INTERRUPT ANYTHING IMPORTANT BY CONTACTING YOU...

WE NEED YOUR HELP ON A MATTER OF *NATIONAL SECURITY.*

US

US

YOU'VE GOT MY EAR, GENERAL.

THIS IS *PRESIDENT MARLO* OF *QURAC.* I BELIEVE YOU KNOW HIM?

MAJOR HOLCRAFT?

YES, WELL, MARLO HAS BEEN DEPOSED.

HE'S IN OUR CUSTODY, AND WE WANT HIM TO STAND TRIAL IN THE U.S.

WE'D LIKE YOUR HELP IN GETTING HIM *HERE.*

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, MAJOR...

I OVERSTEPPED MY BOUNDS ONCE BEFORE ON QURACI SOIL AND REGRETTED IT. *

LOOK, SON-- EVEN THE SOVIETS BACKED YOUR ACTIONS.

* Back in Adventures of Superman #427

WORLD OPINION DOESN'T INTEREST ME--I SINGLE-HANDEDLY DESTROYED THEIR MILITARY...

I *LOST* CONTROL. I *WON'T* DO IT AGAIN.

WE'RE ONLY ASKING YOU TO *ESCORT* OUR *PLANE.*

HE IS A *MAJOR* CRIMINAL WHO MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR HIS ACTIONS.

THIS OPERATION HAS THE STAMP OF APPROVAL FROM THE PRESIDENT ON DOWN TO OUR *NATO* ALLIES.

US

COLONELS SMITH AND WEST WILL BE PILOTING THE AIRCRAFT WITH MARLO ABOARD.

MUST WE *REMIND* YOU OF THIS *TERRORIST'S DIRECT* ATTACKS ON THESE UNITED STATES?

YOUR BELOVED METROPOLIS HAS BEEN TARGETED SEVERAL TIMES, FROM *MINES* IN THE HARBOR, TO HIS MECHANICAL *MAN-O-WAR.*

I *READ* THE NEWS-PAPERS, GENTLE-MEN.

MARLO IS A *PARIAH* TO HIS OWN PEOPLE, AND *JUSTICE* FOR HIM HAS BEEN A *LONG* TIME COMING.

I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAS MANY ENEMIES WHO WOULD RATHER SEE HIM DEAD THAN REACH OUR SHORES.

OKAY, THEN. SMITH--WEST, LET'S GO OVER OUR ITINERARY.

IT IS *TRULY* AN *HONOR*, SUPERMAN.

YES, WELL--MARLO IS BEING HELD IN THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY AT QURAC.

WE NEED YOU TO PICK UP MARLO THERE, AND FLY HIM TO OUR NEAREST AIRSTRIP WHERE SMITH AND WEST WILL BE WAITING...

MAKE SURE HE GETS ON BOARD...

...AND FROM THERE ON IN, YOU'LL DO NO MORE THAN BABYSIT--FLY ALONGSIDE THE AIRCRAFT AS A DETERRENT, IF YOU WILL...

USA Order No 74-10

IRAQ

IRAN

Persian Gulf

QURAC

Saudi Arabia

"...WE WANT EVERYBODY TO SEE HE'S BEING PROTECTED."

BZZZZ

YES, ROBERT?

IT'S YOUR FRIEND... MR. DELGADO.

MISS GRANT SAID YOU MAY PROCEED.

THANKS A LOAD, "BOBBY."

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY, CATHERINE GRANT!

IT'S NOT *MUCH*... BUT THEY'RE BETTER THAN CANDY, RIGHT?

OH, *MY!* HOW *FORMAL!*

OH. YOU'VE ALREADY *GOT* FLOWERS...

A WHOLE *LOT* OF FLOWERS...

HMF. WELL *NOW* I HAVE SOME FROM *YOU!*

C'MERE AND GIVE ME A--*MMMMM...*

YUUUUCK! SPIT-SWAPPING!

HEY HEY HEY, JOSE!

ALL RIGHT ALREADY!
PUSHY KID!
I'LL PUT THESE IN A VASE.
HEY, I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU-- I WORKED THREE DAYS THIS WEEK AS A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER!
THE ENEMY!
JOSE, HOW GREAT!
YEAH, I'VE BEEN IN SUCH A FUNK LATELY...
AND I'M HAPPY, BECAUSE I GET TO SPEND VALENTINE'S DAY WITH YOU!
FUNNY HOW IT WORKED OUT--CLARK KENT GETS LOIS LANE, 'AND I GET YOU.'
CAT, I'D RATHER NOT TALK...
DON'T BE SO SENSITIVE-- YOU HAD THE HOTS FOR LOIS, AND I KIND OF THOUGHT CLARK WAS CUTE.
...AND, WELL-- WE WOULDN'T BE TOGETHER IF NOT FOR THEM!
UH-AHH.' MY DADDY PAID JOSE TO BODYGUARD US!
ADAM!
DON'T BE SO SENSITIVE, CAT-- HE'S RIGHT.
BITE?
I LIKE JOSE BETTER THAN THAT BIG GOON CLARK ANYWAYS!
THANKS, KID, BUT HE'S NOT SUCH A BAD GUY...
...AND WHAT WAS THE RULE ABOUT CALLING PEOPLE NAMES?
OKAY, OKAY, BUT NO FAIR!
NO NOOGIES!

MY TURN TO SAY GOODBYE FOR NOW, SUPERMAN...

I'LL BE WAITING ON THAT SAUDI AIR-STRIP FOR YOU AND OUR PAL, PRESIDENT MARLO. GOOD LUCK.

HARD TO IMAGINE THE SOVIETS HOLDING MARLO *PRISONER*...

...NOT SO AWFULLY LONG AGO, THEY WERE SUPPLYING HIM WITH *MILITARY* ADVISORS AND SUPPLIES.

GOOD TO SEE THAT THE *TIMES* INDEED ARE *CHANGING*.

HOPE THIS DOESN'T SOUND CLUMSY...

〈 SOLDIER, I AM HERE, PRISONER TO TAKE. 〉

〈 YOU HONOR US IN OUR MOTHER TONGUE..〉

〈 MY RUSSIAN IS NOT GOOD..〉

〈 NEVERTHELESS, I UNDERSTAND. 〉

〈 HERE IS THE CRIMINAL, MARLO.

WHO? NO--NO, NOT *YOU*!

DID YOUR *MASTERS* SEND YOU TO *SILENCE* ME?

I'M NO MAN'S *LACKEY*-- I'M HERE TO TAKE YOU TO JUSTICE.

WHOSE JUSTICE?

YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS NO BUSINESS MEDDLING IN MY COUNTRY'S AFFAIRS!

OPEN YOUR EYES-- YOUR *PEOPLE* WANT YOU DEAD!

I WANT YOU *ALIVE*.

NO-*NO*! DON'T LET HIM TAKE ME-- I'LL MAKE YOU *RICH*...

RELAX YOUR BODY, MARLO--FLYING'S NOT SO BAD.

<THE STAIRWAY TO THE ROOFTOP IS THROUGH HERE...>

I FEEL *FAINT*...

TAKE A DEEP BREATH...

...IT WILL PASS.

"*BIG BLUE*" HAS DEPARTED QURAC...

"...BE PREPARED TO TRACK THEIR PROGRESS TO THE SAUDI AIR BASE."

OKAY, EVERYONE, TAKE YOUR SEATS-- I'M ABOUT TO DROP A *BOMBSHELL*...

...AN INTERESTING *DOCUMENT* HAS BEEN FOUND, WRITTEN OUT IN *LONGHAND*...

...BY LEX LUTHOR HIMSELF.

A BATTERY OF HANDWRITING EXPERTS HAVE ALREADY VERIFIED ITS AUTHENTICITY.

Product Development

NOV %
DEC %
JAN %
%
%
%
1ST QUARTER

MARKET SHARE BASED ON PROJECTED GROWTH

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

IS IT *GOOD* OR *BAD* NEWS FOR THE STOCKHOLDERS?

WELL, IT'S NO *QUICK* FIX FOR LEXCORP'S PROBLEMS, BUT IT *DOES* NAME AN *HEIR*...

ARE YOU ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE BOSS'S *PERSONAL* PHYSICIAN DOCTOR KELLEY?

ACCORDING TO THIS DOCUMENT, SHE BORE HIM A SON, OUT OF WEDLOCK, SOME TWENTY YEARS AGO.

THE *ENTIRE* FORTUNE WAS WILLED TO *HIM*--THE SON.

EXPECT A KNOCKDOWN DRAG-OUT FIGHT OVER *THIS*, FOLKS.

WITH THIS MUCH AT STAKE HERE...

"...EVERYONE'S GOING TO WANT A PIECE OF IT!"

SUPERMAN AND THE PLANE WITH MARLO HAVE BOTH JUST TAKEN OFF, TOWARDS THE RED SEA...

WE WILL BE READY FOR THEM!

MARLO MUST NOT REACH U.S. SOIL!

THE SONS OF LIBERTY WILL NOT BE DENIED!

THE PRESIDENT OF QURAC WILL NOT STAND TRIAL!

WHY AM I NOT ALLOWED AN OUT-SIDE VIEW?

ARE YOU CURS AFRAID I MIGHT TRY TO SIGNAL MY CONFEDERATES?

WELL! THAT'S ONE REASON WE HADN'T THOUGHT OF!

CAN I GET YOU ANY-THING, PRESIDENT?

A PARACHUTE, AND AN AUTOMATIC WEAPON, PERHAPS? NO?

AS PRESIDENT OF QURAC, I'VE *MANY* WELL-PLACED FRIENDS, INCLUDING SOME IN AMERICA!

THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO CANNOT BEAR, POLITICALLY SPEAKING, TO SEE ME STAND TRIAL -- FOR FEAR *THEIR* NAMES WILL BE REVEALED!

THEY WILL SEE TO IT THAT I AM RELEASED FROM YOUR *MILITARY* CUSTODY...

YOU'RE TRYING TO *RILE* ME, WITH THIS RUBBISH ABOUT FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES, BUT IT WON'T WORK!

YOUR REGIME SPONSORED TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ON A *GLOBAL* SCALE...

YOU'VE KILLED *INNOCENTS*, WAGED WAR ON YOUR *OWN* PEOPLE, AND FINALLY IT'S *OVER.*

I'M BETTING YOU'VE MADE JUST AS MANY *ENEMIES* IN HIGH PLACES, AS YOU HAVE *FRIENDS!*

AND, IF YOU HAD ANY *DECENCY,* YOU'D ARRANGE THE RELEASE OF ALL THE HOSTAGES YOU'RE HOLDING THROUGHOUT THE MIDEAST.

YOU ARE INDEED A *NAIVE* YOUNG MAN, IF YOU THINK I WIELD THAT KIND OF *POWER.*

YOU AMERICANS HAVE ILLEGALLY TAKEN ME FROM MY COUNTRY IN ORDER TO *MURDER* ME!

YOUR GOVERNMENT NEEDS ME DEAD, AND THEY HAVE CHOSEN THEIR GREAT SYMBOL OF OPPRESSION, SUPERMAN, TO DO IT!

THAT'S ABSURD! SUPERMAN ISN'T THAT TYPE!

HE NEARLY KILLED ME ONCE, AND THEN CRIPPLED MY ARMIES...

WE COULD *BARELY* DEFEND OUR BORDERS.

OUR COUNTRY'S *OIL RESERVES* ARE CONTAMINATED WITH RADIATION FROM A DEVICE EXPLODED UNDERGROUND BY YOUR SPIES!

WELL, NOW YOU'VE GOT ME *RILED*--!

SMITH

USA

FIRST, SUPERMAN HAD EVERY RIGHT TO ATTACK YOU--IN RETALIATION FOR *YOUR* ATTACKS ON METROPOLIS...

SECOND, YOUR OIL RESERVES *ARE* UNUSABLE, THANKS TO YOUR SCIENTISTS' UNDERGROUND *NUCLEAR* TESTS...

AND LASTLY, I *AGREE* THAT MY GOVERNMENT *ISN'T* PERFECT...

...BUT WE HAVE CHECKS AND BALANCES IN OUR CONSTITUTION...

...TO KEEP OUR LEADERS FROM GOING OVER THE TOP, LIKE YOU, MARLO!

DON'T THINK THERE *AREN'T* MEN LIKE ME IN YOUR PRECIOUS GOVERNMENT, FOOL!

SMITH

WELL, IT WAS SO *NICE* TALKING WITH YOU, I'LL MAKE SURE TO WRITE YOU IN PRISON!

SURELY YOU *MOCK* ME...

...BUT YOU'LL REGRET YOUR INSOLENCE...

"I WILL BE FREED."

WITH ALL THE ACTIVITY IN THE PERSIAN GULF, I CAN SEE WHY THEY NEEDED AN ESCORT--ESPECIALLY A COLORFUL ONE!

WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS *WHY* THEY DIDN'T ASK ONE OF THE HEROES WHO NORMALLY WORK IN A MILITARY CAPACITY.

I DON'T--*WHOA!* PLANE'S COMING UP BEHIND...

NO MILITARY MARKINGS--AND ITS DESIGN IS UNLIKE ANYTHING CURRENTLY DEPLOYED.

NOW IT'S FIRING ON US!

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

USAF

THAT DOES IT! THE OTHER FORCES IN THE REGION WERE INSTRUCTED TO REMAIN NEUTRAL, SO THIS IS UP TO ME.

BOOM

MAJOR WEST KNOWS ENOUGH TO STAY ON COURSE, BUT I DON'T WANT HIM TOO FAR AHEAD OF ME!

THIS SHOULD AFFECT ITS AERODYNAMICS!

SO I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS THE *DIRECT* WAY...

WHOOOSH

RRRRRRAAAAAK

WE'RE OUT OVER THE RED SEA, SO THAT PLANE ISN'T GOING TO HIT ANYTHING IN OPEN WATERS.

USAF

NICE GOING, SUPES! I'VE RADIOED NATO HQ TO PICK UP THE PILOT WHO EJECTED.

650

LET'S KEEP OUR COURSE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN.

"FIRST ATTACK HAS FAILED.

RADAR HAS THEM NEARING THE SUEZ CANAL -- WAIT UNTIL THEY CLEAR IT TO PROCEED. OVER.

FULL SPEED -- WE HAVE A TIMETABLE TO MAINTAIN.

YES SIR.

"ENGAGE THE STEALTH DRIVE -- WE MUST AVOID DETECTION AT ALL COSTS."

I'VE GOT TO BE EXTRA-CAUTIOUS, WHAT WITH THE MILITARY BUILD-UP IN THIS REGION...

MANY NATIONS ARE REPRESENTED HERE, AND ANY ONE MISTAKE COULD SET OFF AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT.

COLONELS WEST AND SMITH KNEW THOSE RISKS, BUT THEY VOLUNTEERED ANYWAY...

"...THOUGH WITH CARGO LIKE MARLO, WE MAY AS WELL HAVE PAINTED A BULLSEYE ON THE SIDE OF THE PLANE!

I'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH FOR A *RESCUE* ATTEMPT-- TIME TO TAKE MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS.

WHEN THEY SEARCHED ME, THEY MISSED THIS SPECIAL RING...

...WHICH CONTAINS ENOUGH POISON TO KILL ONE MAN...

...AND I AM *NOT* ONE TO CONSIDER *SUICIDE*.

PRESIDENT, I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOME...

TEEEAGHH! MARLO-YOU-SNEAKY-SON-OF-A--!

THIS...

...WAS *NOT* A BRIGHT MOVE!

OOOF

I'VE JUST *SUSPENDED* YOUR BATHROOM PRIVILEGES FOR THE DURATION OF THIS FLIGHT.

GEEZ, IT'S A GOOD THING YOU DIDN'T GET TO *DRINK* THAT COFFEE.

GOOD, THE NORTH ATLANTIC'S AHEAD. THIS IS THE HOME STRETCH.

WELL, SUPERMAN, SO FAR WE'RE ON COURSE, ON TIME, AND UNDER-PAID!

WELL, I AM, AT LEAST!

SMITH AND WEST ARE GOOD GUYS -- THEY TAKE THEIR SOLDIERING SERIOUSLY, BUT THEY'RE NOT *STIFFS*.

...THEY CAN STILL FIND HUMOR IN A SITUATION.

UH-OH! HERE WE GO AGAIN!

SPLISH

SPA LOOSH

MISSILES FROM A SUBMARINE?

I SEEM TO BE THEIR TARGET...

I'LL TRY TO DRAW THEM AWAY FROM THE PLANE.

SURE ENOUGH, THEY'RE FOLLOWING ME LIKE TRAINED SEALS.

650

USAF

FOOOSH

OMIGOD! I'VE BEEN *HAD!* THAT SUB'S GOT THE PLANE DEAD TO RIGHTS!

BOOM

YAARGHH!

USAF

SUPES! I'VE GOT A BOGEY ON MY TAIL--

THIS HAS GONE *BAD*-- WEST'S *PLANE*...

HE'S MANAGED TO *EJECT*, BUT THERE'LL BE A *FIREBALL* WHEN THAT *FUEL* IGNITES! HE'LL FRY...

650

KA-BOOM!

...UNLESS I CAN HELP!

DAMN IT! WE FAILED, SUPERMAN! THOSE RATS GOT OUR PLANE!

THIS MISSION'S *NOT* OVER YET, COLONEL.

YOUR 'CHUTE OKAY?

YEP.

I'LL BE OKAY IN THE DRINK! GO GET THOSE GUYS, SUPES!

THAT SUB IS STARTING TO DIVE...

THAT IS NOT GOING TO HELP THEM!

I WOULDN'T ADVISE *SUBMERGING* NOW, FELLAS!

RRRANK!

SUPERMAN! WE'RE *DOOMED!*

YOU *FOOL*, AT LEAST WE GOT MARLO!

THESE GUYS SEEM TO HAVE *LOST* THE *WILL* TO *FIGHT*, SIR.

THANKS TO *YOU*, SUPERMAN.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF *ENLISTING*?

SUPERMAN'S *AIR FORCE* ALL THE WAY, SIR.

M 750

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT...

...BUT I HEAR THAT THE FOOD STINKS!

READY TO TRAVEL, COLONEL?

TO "*FACE THE MUSIC*" FOR SCREWING UP, YOU MEAN!

"*WE DID OUR BEST, COLONEL -- THAT'S ALL ANYONE COULD ASK...*"

MAJOR HOLCRAFT, I'M *SORRY* TO REPORT THE LOSS OF A FORTY-MILLION-DOLLAR AIRCRAFT DURING THIS MISSION.

YOU *LOST* FAR MORE THAN THAT, SON, AND I'LL SEE YOU COURT-MARTIALED FOR IT!

...AND WHAT KIND OF HERO DID *YOU* TURN OUT TO BE, SUPERMAN?

YOU TWO LOST COLONEL SMITH *AND* PRESIDENT MARLO!

JUST AS *YOU* HOPED, MAJOR!

SURPRISED, MAJOR?

YO, WEST! I HEARD YOU WET YOUR PANTS IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC!

YOU TRIED TO HAVE ME KILLED?

B-B-BUT...

SMITH

US

COLONEL WEST WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF THAT PLANE CRASH! YOU SHOULD BE DEAD! I GAVE THE ORDER...

WEST PILOTED A DECOY PLANE, WHICH SUPERMAN AGREED TO FLY ALONGSIDE, IN ORDER TO DRAW ATTENTION...

... AWAY FROM THE TRANSPORT THAT CARRIED SMITH AND THE PRESIDENT...

US

WE KNOW ALL ABOUT THE RENEGADE GROUP YOU FRONTED -- THE "SONS OF LIBERTY" HAVE ALL BEEN ROUNDED UP!

ONE OF YOUR "SONS" REALIZED U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL WOULD DIE IN THIS ATTEMPT ON MARLO, SO HE HELPED US SET YOU UP.

YOU AUTHORIZED SHIPMENTS OF MONEY AND WEAPONS TO REBUILD QURAC'S ARMIES -- I'D SAY THAT MAKES YOU A TRAITOR.

N-NO! QURAC SUPPLIED US WITH CRUCIAL STRATEGIC INFORMATION ON BOTH IRAN AND IRAQ...

WEST

...AND THEIR INTERVENTION FACILITATED THE RELEASE OF THREE MIDDLE EASTERN HOSTAGES...

...IN EXCHANGE FOR OUTDATED WEAPONRY, AND A FEW DOLLARS!

SAY NO MORE, FOOL -- YOU'VE ALREADY BURIED YOURSELF -- DON'T TAKE ME WITH YOU!

TOO LATE FOR THAT. WE BUILT OUR CASE AGAINST THE MAJOR BASED ON EVIDENCE WE HAD ON YOU, MARLO.

WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING A PAPER TRAIL BETWEEN YOU TWO FOR SIX MONTHS NOW.

SIX MONTHS?

HOW *MANY* ACTS OF TERRORISM HAS QURAC LAUNCHED IN SIX MONTHS' TIME, GENERAL?

HOW *MANY* INNOCENT PEOPLE WERE KILLED WITH *AMERICAN* MONEY AND WEAPONS?

A *CASE* HAD TO BE BUILT.

WE, OF COURSE, DEEPLY REGRET THE LOSS OF INNOCENT LIVES.

BUT YOU'VE DONE YOUR *PATRIOTIC DUTY* TO END THIS CHAPTER!

YOUR COUNTRY OWES YOU A DEBT OF GRATITUDE.

I *BELIEVE* IN EVERY-THING THIS FLAG STANDS FOR...

...BUT AS SUPERMAN, I HAVE TO BE A CITIZEN OF THE *WORLD*.

I VALUE *ALL* LIFE, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL BORDERS.

THIS IS YOUR COUNTRY, SUPERMAN...

YES, AND IT WORKS *BEST* WHEN THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT *CORRUPT* OFFICIALS CANNOT BEND THE LETTER OF THE *LAW*...

...AND *GET AWAY* WITH IT! DON'T SWEEP THIS ONE UNDER A RUG!

GOOD DAY, GENTLEMEN.

HE'S THE GREATEST.

GOT THAT RIGHT.

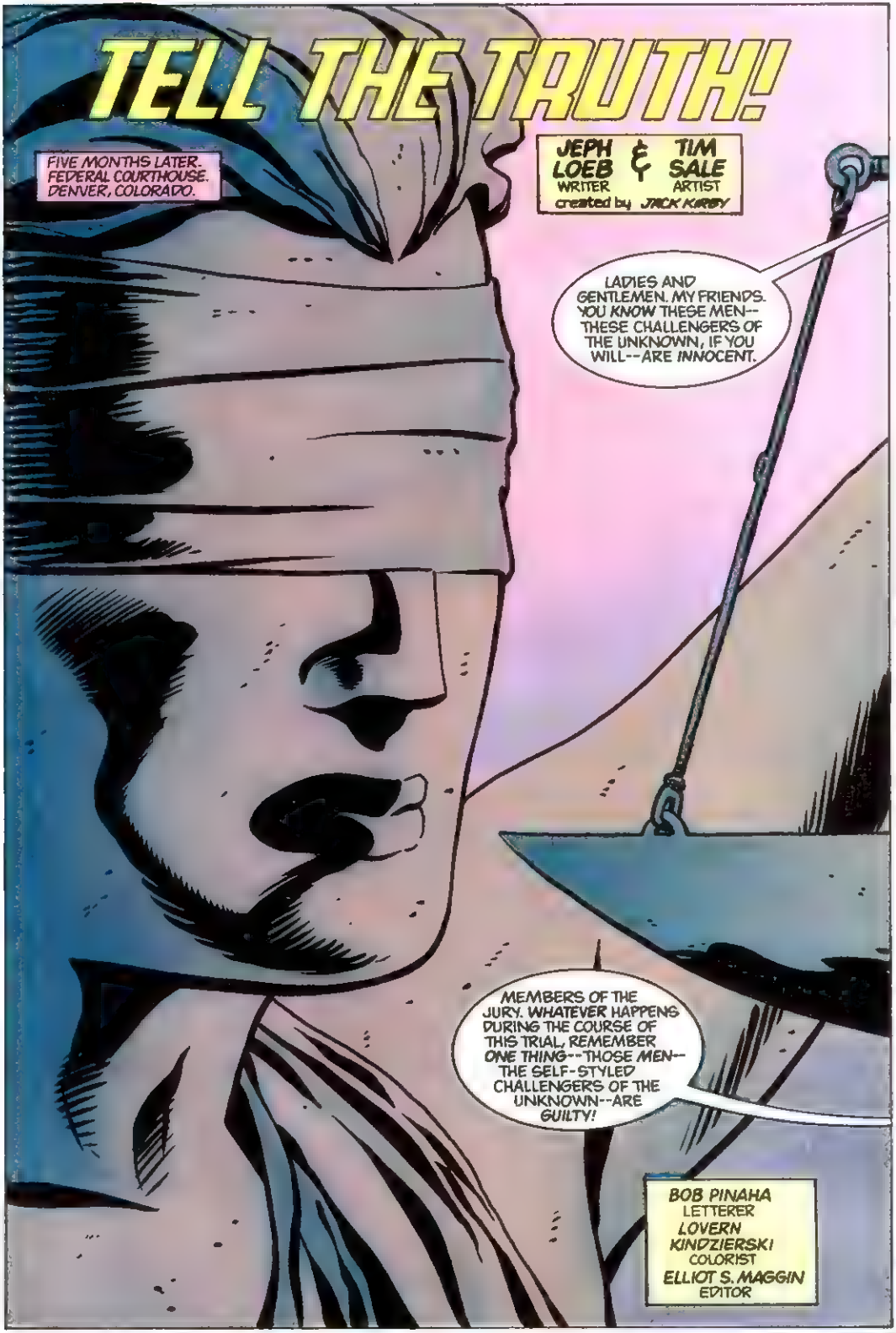
HE'S POLITICALLY *NAIVE* TO THE WAYS OF THE WORLD -- I PRAY HE NEVER TURNS *AGAINST* US...

NEXT ISSUE

SUPERMAN® IN WORLD WAR II!

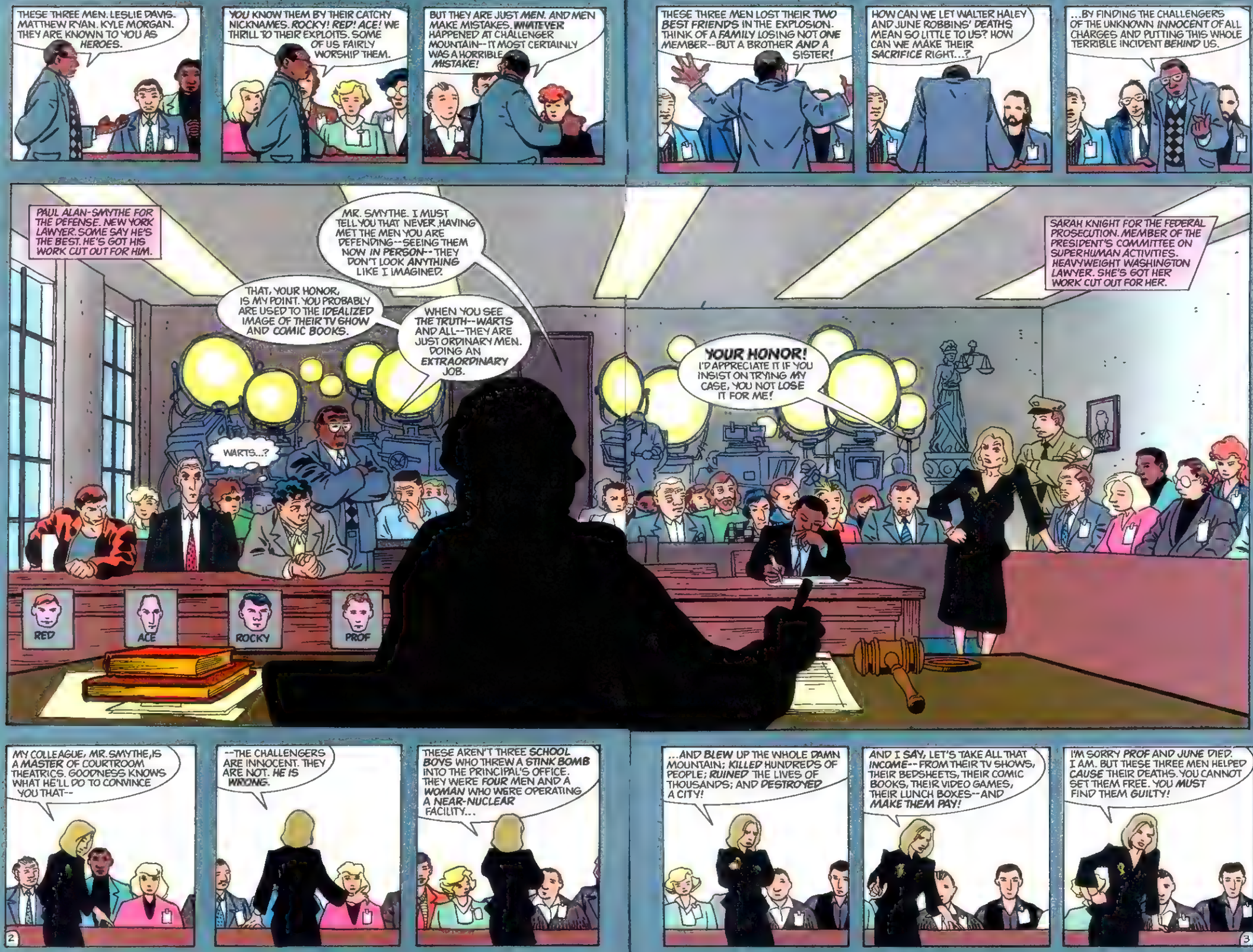
HOW?

READ *ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN #475*, and then *ACTION COMICS #663* FOR THE ANSWERS! OH, YEAH, MR Z POPS IN FOR THE FIRST (?) TIME IN *SUPERMAN #54* TOO!

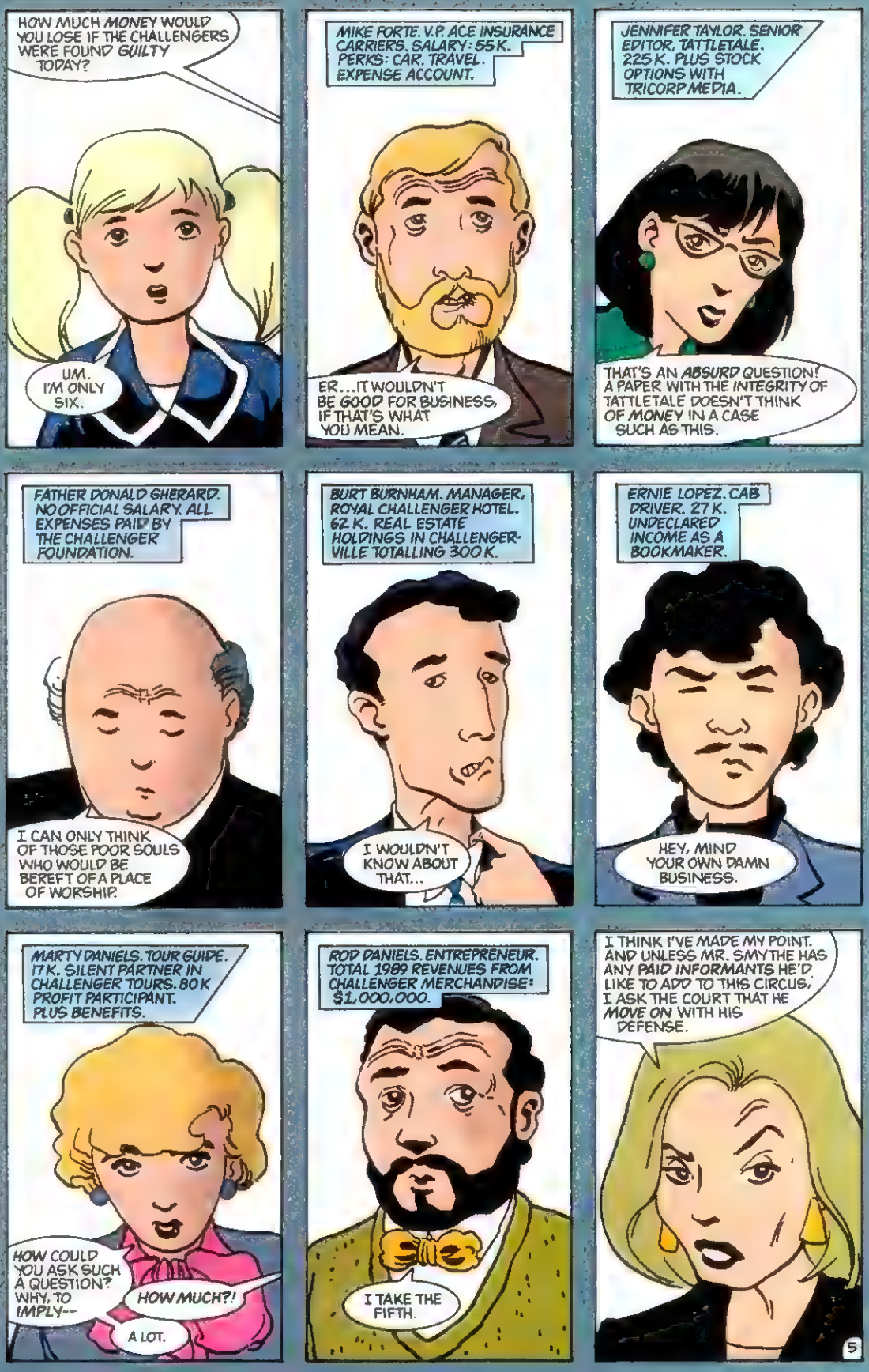

TELL THE TRUTH!
JEPH LOEB & TIM SALE
WRITER ARTIST
created by JACK KIRBY
FIVE MONTHS LATER. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE. DENVER, COLORADO.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. MY FRIENDS. YOU KNOW THESE MEN--THESE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, IF YOU WILL--ARE INNOCENT.
MEMBERS OF THE JURY. WHATEVER HAPPENS DURING THE COURSE OF THIS TRIAL, REMEMBER ONE THING--THOSE MEN--THE SELF-STYLED CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN--ARE GUILTY!
BOB PINAHA
LETTERER
LOVERN KINDZIERSKI
COLORIST
ELLIOT S. MAGGIN
EDITOR

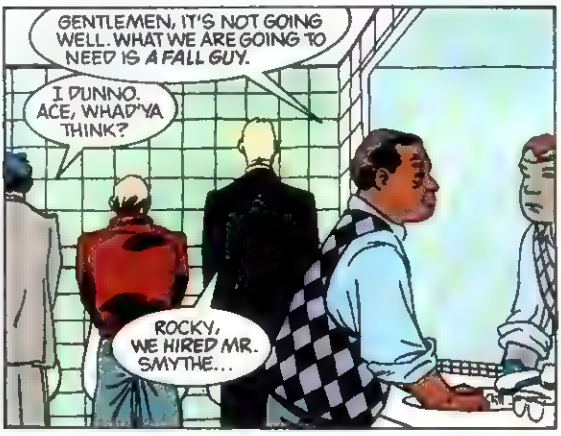
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN 2 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. Copyright © 1991 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. For advertising space contact: Tom Ballou, (212) 484-2870. Printed in Canada.
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Bros. Inc. Company

Another fine GaGa/Grundy scan

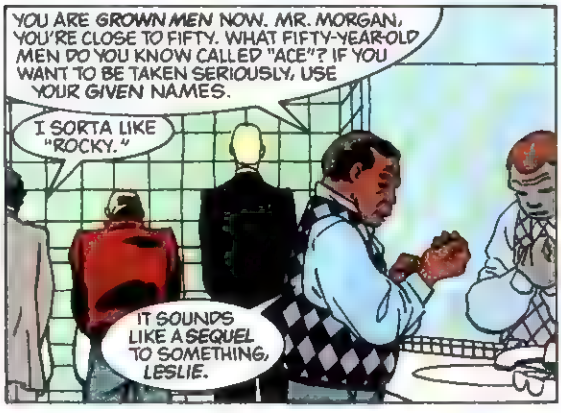

THESE THREE MEN. LESLIE DAVIS. MATTHEW RYAN. KYLE MORGAN. THEY ARE KNOWN TO YOU AS HEROES.
YOU KNOW THEM BY THEIR CATCHY NICKNAMES. ROCKY! RED! ACE! WE THRILL TO THEIR EXPLOITS. SOME OF US FAIRLY WORSHIP THEM.
BUT THEY ARE JUST MEN. AND MEN MAKE MISTAKES. WHATEVER HAPPENED AT CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN--IT MOST CERTAINLY WAS A HORRIBLE MISTAKE!
THESE THREE MEN LOST THEIR TWO BEST FRIENDS IN THE EXPLOSION. THINK OF A FAMILY LOSING NOT ONE MEMBER--BUT A BROTHER AND A SISTER!
HOW CAN WE LET WALTER HALEY AND JUNE ROBBINS' DEATHS MEAN SO LITTLE TO US? HOW CAN WE MAKE THEIR SACRIFICE RIGHT...?
...BY FINDING THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN INNOCENT OF ALL CHARGES AND PUTTING THIS WHOLE TERRIBLE INCIDENT BEHIND US.
PAUL ALAN-SMYTHE FOR THE DEFENSE. NEW YORK LAWYER. SOME SAY HE'S THE BEST. HE'S GOT HIS WORK CUT OUT FOR HIM.
MR. SMYTHE. I MUST TELL YOU THAT NEVER HAVING MET THE MEN YOU ARE DEFENDING--SEEING THEM NOW IN PERSON--THEY DON'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE I IMAGINED.
THAT, YOUR HONOR, IS MY POINT. YOU PROBABLY ARE USED TO THE IDEALIZED IMAGE OF THEIR TV SHOW AND COMIC BOOKS.
WHEN YOU SEE THE TRUTH--WARTS AND ALL--THEY ARE JUST ORDINARY MEN. DOING AN EXTRAORDINARY JOB.
WARTS...?
SARAH KNIGHT FOR THE FEDERAL PROSECUTION. MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITIES. HEAVYWEIGHT WASHINGTON LAWYER. SHE'S GOT HER WORK CUT OUT FOR HER.
YOUR HONOR! I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU INSIST ON TRYING MY CASE, YOU NOT LOSE IT FOR ME!
RED
ACE
ROCKY
PROF
MY COLLEAGUE, MR. SMYTHE, IS A MASTER OF COURTROOM THEATRICS. GOODNESS KNOWS WHAT HE'LL DO TO CONVINCE YOU THAT--
--THE CHALLENGERS ARE INNOCENT. THEY ARE NOT. HE IS WRONG.
THESE AREN'T THREE SCHOOL BOYS WHO THREW A STINK BOMB INTO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE. THEY WERE FOUR MEN AND A WOMAN WHO WERE OPERATING A NEAR-NUCLEAR FACILITY...
...AND BLEW UP THE WHOLE DAMN MOUNTAIN; KILLED HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE; RUINED THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS; AND DESTROYED A CITY!
AND I SAY, LET'S TAKE ALL THAT INCOME--FROM THEIR TV SHOWS, THEIR BEDSHEETS, THEIR COMIC BOOKS, THEIR VIDEO GAMES, THEIR LUNCH BOXES--AND MAKE THEM PAY!
I'M SORRY PROF AND JUNE DIED. I AM. BUT THESE THREE MEN HELPED CAUSE THEIR DEATHS. YOU CANNOT SET THEM FREE. YOU MUST FIND THEM GUILTY!

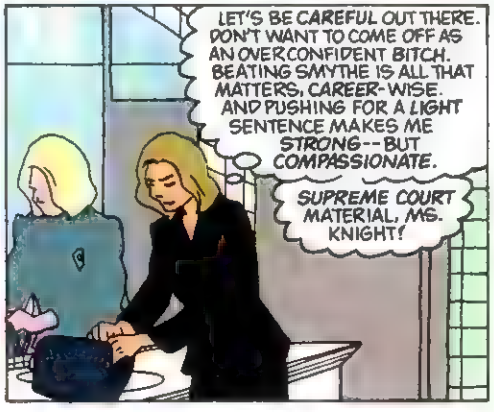
I'D LIKE TO LET THE JURY MEET SOME OF THE PEOPLE MS. KNIGHT CLAIMS WERE DESTROYED BY THE CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN ACCIDENT. LET'S SEE HOW THEY FEEL.
WHEN I THINK OF WHAT A JOKE HADLEY WAS BEFORE THE CHALLS WERE THERE... WE WERE A SKI TOWN WITHOUT A MOUNTAIN!
HADLEY? WASN'T THAT THE NAME OF YOUR TOWN BEFORE IT WAS CHANGED TO CHALLENGERVILLE?
EVERYTHING CHANGED WHEN THEY BUILT CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN AND THE CHALLENGER MUSEUM! YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE TOUR. I CAN'T THINK OF A MORE EXCITING AND EDUCATIONAL WAY TO SPEND TWENTY-TWO MINUTES.
SO, IN FACT, YOU HAD VERY LITTLE WITH WHICH TO MAKE A LIVING BEFORE THESE MEN ARRIVED.
FORGET IT, MAN. THE CHALLENGERS SAVED OUR BUTTS--UM, LIVES. WE NEED THEM IN OUR TOWN.
BUT, SURELY, THERE MUST BE SOME RESENTMENT--?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT. ALL I KNOW IS THAT ROCKY, ACE AND RED ARE DECENT MEN WHO BROUGHT US RESPECT.
IN WHAT WAY? WASN'T IT A BOTHER HAVING THESE CELEBRITIES IN YOUR MIDST? ALTERING YOUR LIFESTYLES?
NO. NO. NO. I'VE OFTEN TOLD MY PARISH THAT THE GOOD LORD PROVIDED THE CHALLENGERS AS AN EXAMPLE, SO THAT WE EACH WOULD STRIVE TO BE THE BEST.
AND AS A RESULT, BROUGHT INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION TO YOUR LITTLE TOWN, DIDN'T THEY?
SO MUCH SO THAT TRICORP MEDIA, THE CORPORATION WHICH OWNS MY NEWSPAPER, TATTLETALE, SAW IN THE CHALLENGERS THE STUFF OF TRUE HEROES AND HAS SUPPORTED THEM TO THIS DAY.
AND EVEN DURING THE ACCIDENT, THE TRAGEDY, THESE MEN DIDN'T ONCE THINK OF THEMSELVES, DID THEY?
WELL, RED DID MAKE SOME CRUDE REMARKS, BUT HE SAVED US.
AHEM. I THINK, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, ANY ONE OF US MIGHT BE PRONE TO AN OFF-COLOR REMARK.
WELL, I'M ONLY SIX, BUT I THINK I'D LIKE TO COMMENT ON--
YOUR HONOR! I OBJECT!
BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER WITH THIS TELETHON OF LOVE, I'D LIKE TO ASK A SIMPLE QUESTION TO MR. SMYTHE'S SO-CALLED IMPARTIAL WITNESSES...
4

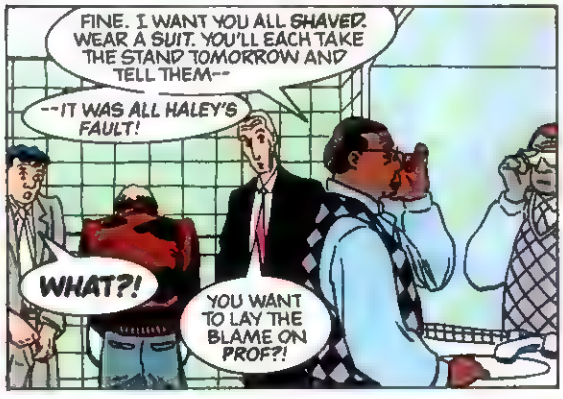

HOW MUCH MONEY WOULD YOU LOSE IF THE CHALLENGERS WERE FOUND GUILTY TODAY?
UM. I'M ONLY SIX.
MIKE FORTE. V.P. ACE INSURANCE CARRIERS. SALARY: 55 K. PERKS: CAR. TRAVEL. EXPENSE ACCOUNT.
ER...IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR BUSINESS, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.
JENNIFER TAYLOR. SENIOR EDITOR, TATTLETALE. 225 K. PLUS STOCK OPTIONS WITH TRICORP MEDIA.
THAT'S AN ABSURD QUESTION! A PAPER WITH THE INTEGRITY OF TATTLETALE DOESN'T THINK OF MONEY IN A CASE SUCH AS THIS.
FATHER DONALD GHERARD. NO OFFICIAL SALARY. ALL EXPENSES PAID BY THE CHALLENGER FOUNDATION.
I CAN ONLY THINK OF THOSE POOR SOULS WHO WOULD BE BEREFT OF A PLACE OF WORSHIP.
BURT BURNHAM. MANAGER, ROYAL CHALLENGER HOTEL. 62 K. REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS IN CHALLENGERVILLE TOTALLING 300 K.
I WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...
ERNIE LOPEZ. CAB DRIVER. 27 K. UNDECLARED INCOME AS A BOOKMAKER.
HEY, MIND YOUR OWN DAMN BUSINESS.
MARTY DANIELS. TOUR GUIDE. 17 K. SILENT PARTNER IN CHALLENGER TOURS. 80 K PROFIT PARTICIPANT. PLUS BENEFITS.
HOW COULD YOU ASK SUCH A QUESTION? WHY, TO IMPLY--
HOW MUCH?!
A LOT.
ROD DANIELS. ENTREPRENEUR. TOTAL 1989 REVENUES FROM CHALLENGER MERCHANDISE: $1,000,000.
I TAKE THE FIFTH.
I THINK I'VE MADE MY POINT. AND UNLESS MR. SMYTHE HAS ANY PAID INFORMANTS HE'D LIKE TO ADD TO THIS CIRCUS, I ASK THE COURT THAT HE MOVE ON WITH HIS DEFENSE.
5

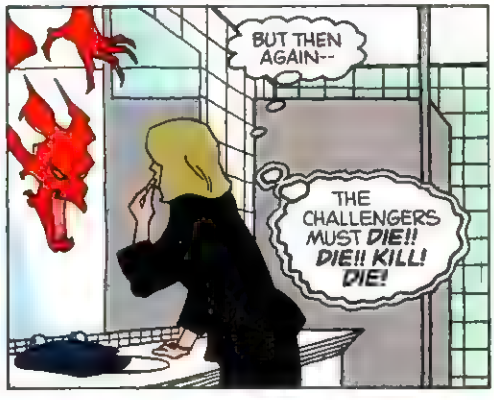

GENTLEMEN, IT'S NOT GOING WELL. WHAT WE ARE GOING TO NEED IS A FALL GUY.
I DUNNO. ACE, WHAD'YA THINK?
ROCKY, WE HIRED MR. SMYTHE...

MS. KNIGHT. YOU'VE BEEN ABSOLUTELY STERLING IN THERE. THOROUGH. PROFESSIONAL.
THEY LIKED YOU. THEY REALLY LIKED YOU.

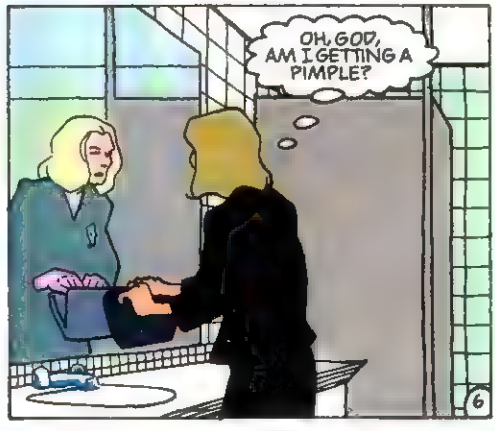

YOU ARE GROWN MEN NOW. MR. MORGAN, YOU'RE CLOSE TO FIFTY. WHAT FIFTY-YEAR-OLD MEN DO YOU KNOW CALLED "ACE"? IF YOU WANT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, USE YOUR GIVEN NAMES.
I SORTA LIKE "ROCKY."
IT SOUNDS LIKE A SEQUEL TO SOMETHING, LESLIE.


LET'S BE CAREFUL OUT THERE. DON'T WANT TO COME OFF AS AN OVERCONFIDENT BITCH. BEATING SMYTHE IS ALL THAT MATTERS, CAREER-WISE. AND PUSHING FOR A LIGHT SENTENCE MAKES ME STRONG--BUT COMPASSIONATE.
SUPREME COURT MATERIAL, MS. KNIGHT!


FINE. I WANT YOU ALL SHAVED. WEAR A SUIT. YOU'LL EACH TAKE THE STAND TOMORROW AND TELL THEM--
--IT WAS ALL HALEY'S FAULT!
WHAT?!
YOU WANT TO LAY THE BLAME ON PROF?!


BUT THEN AGAIN--
THE CHALLENGERS MUST DIE!! DIE!! KILL! DIE!

NOT "PROF"! WALTER HALEY. YOU'VE TOLD ME YOURSELVES, HE PULLED THE SWITCH THAT BLEW UP THE MOUNTAIN.
YEAH, BUT--
WELL...
FINE. THEY CAN'T HANG A MAN WHO'S ALREADY DEAD!


OH, GOD, AM I GETTING A PIMPLE?

ANYBODY GOT THE SCORE ON THE KNICKS GAME?
I KNOW. THEY SCREWED ME ON MY REIMBURSEMENT CHECK, TOO.
FIRST CLASS! WHY WOULD ANYBODY FLY COACH?
OH, SURE, THE CHECK'S IN THE MAIL. AND I'LL PAY FOR DINNER.
YOU SEE THAT BLONDE IN THE JURY...?
WHAT WE NEED IS A GOOD BAR NEAR HERE.
TYPE TYPE TYPE
SO, CLARKIE, ADMIT IT. YOU'RE JEALOUS. MR. HAROLD MOFFET IS GOING TO TESTIFY ON TV. NEXT THING YOU KNOW, I'LL BE A NEWSCASTER...
...MAYBE GET MY OWN TALK SHOW!
REALLY, MOFFET, I'M VERY BUSY...
$14.95 AT PENNY'S. COMES IN BLACK, TOO.
HELLO, MOM? HOW'S THE WEATHER?
ITALIAN? NAH, LET'S GET CHINESE.
ANYONE FOUND A GOOD BAR NEAR HERE?
TWO HUNDRED ON THE FIRST RACE AT HOLLYWOOD PARK--
GOT A SCORE ON THE NUGGETS GAME?
TYPE TYPE TYPE
"OOOO, I'M VERY BUSY." YOU KNOW, CLARK, YOU OUGHTA LOOSEN UP. MAYBE GETTING ENGAGED TO LOIS LANE WASN'T SUCH A HOT IDEA. YOU AND ME SHOULD GO OUT-- SCOPE SOME CHICKS--
YOW!
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU ALL GAWKING AT?! GET BACK TO WORK!
THE PRESS ROOM. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BASEMENT. 8:10 P.M.
TYPE TYPE TYPE

I NEVER REALLY PUT IT INTO FOCUS BEFORE, BUT DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS, AS MUCH AS PROF--WALTER--WAS DRAWN TO SCIENCE...
...I FOUND MYSELF MORE TAKEN WITH THE EXPLORATION OF...THE SOUL.
WALTER WANTED TO MAKE THE PLANET A BETTER PLACE. HE AND JUNE SPENT HOURS, YEARS, TRYING TO HARNESS AN ALTERNATIVE, INEXPENSIVE ENERGY SOURCE.
WHAT GOOD IS BEING ABLE TO LIGHT A LIGHTBULB--WHEN TRUE ILLUMINATION COMES FROM WITHIN?
I KEEP FOCUSING ON THE SAME QUESTIONS. WHY DID WE THREE SURVIVE OUT OF THE ORIGINAL FOUR? WHY DID WE ORIGINAL FOUR SURVIVE UP TO THAT TIME?
WHAT PURPOSE DOES IT SERVE?
I HAVE BEEN FASTING. DABBLING IN THE OCCULT. HOPING TO FIND SOME ANSWERS.
IF ONLY. IF ONLY I HAD SOME SORT OF SIGN OF WHETHER I AM HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
HMMM...
FASCINATING.
DENVER HOLIDAY INN. ROOM 13. 9:35 P.M.
8

♫ ONE DAY YOU TURN AROUND--AND IT'S SUMMER...
ALL THESE YEARS WE BEEN TOGETHER. I DUNNO. I HAD FUN.
SURE THING, MAC.
SURE THING, MAC.
I MEAN, WE WERE NO JUSTICE LEAGUE. BUT, I'VE SEEN SOME STUFF. ONE TIME, JUNE, I SWEAR, WAS ABOUT FIFTY FEET BIG!
♫ NEXT DAY, YOU TURN AROUND, AND IT'S FALL...
AND THEN JUNE, SHE--AH, JUNE'S DEAD. WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE. THAT WASN'T THE DEAL.
AND NOW. ALL THIS STUFF WE GOT OUR LAWYER DOIN'. I DUNNO WHAT I'M GONNA DO.
I JUST DON'T KNOW!
♫ AND ALL THE WINTERS AND THE SPRINGS OF A LIFETIME--
SURE THING, MAC.
YOU NEED A REFILL, MAC?
MURPHY'S TAVERN 11:05 P.M.
♫ WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THEM ALL...?

"SEPTEMBER OF MY YEARS"
(James Van Heusen, Sammy Cahn)
© 1965 WB MUSIC CORP
All Rights Reserved Used By Permission

I JUST KNEW IT.

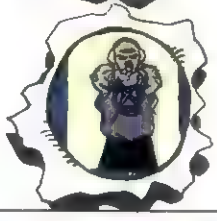
PROF AND JUNE WOULD TINKER WITH WHATEVER THE HELL IT WAS AND BLOW OUR BUTTS FROM HERE TO CHINA.

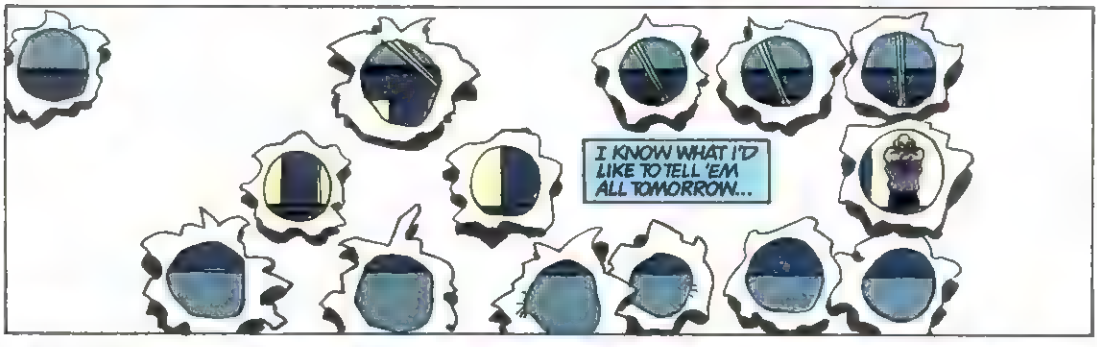
ALL I EVER WANTED WAS TO GET BACK OUT THERE. FEEL THE JUICE.

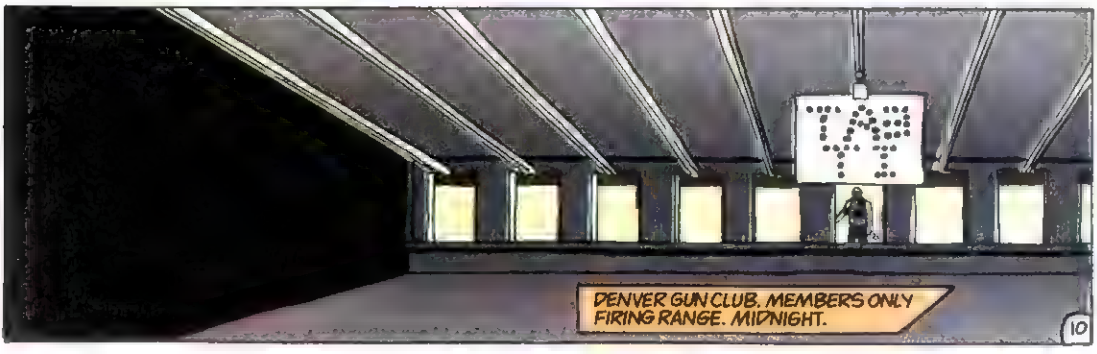
DIDN'T CARE THAT THERE WERE A JILLION SUPER-JOES OUT THERE SAVING THE DAY. I GOT OFF ON IT.

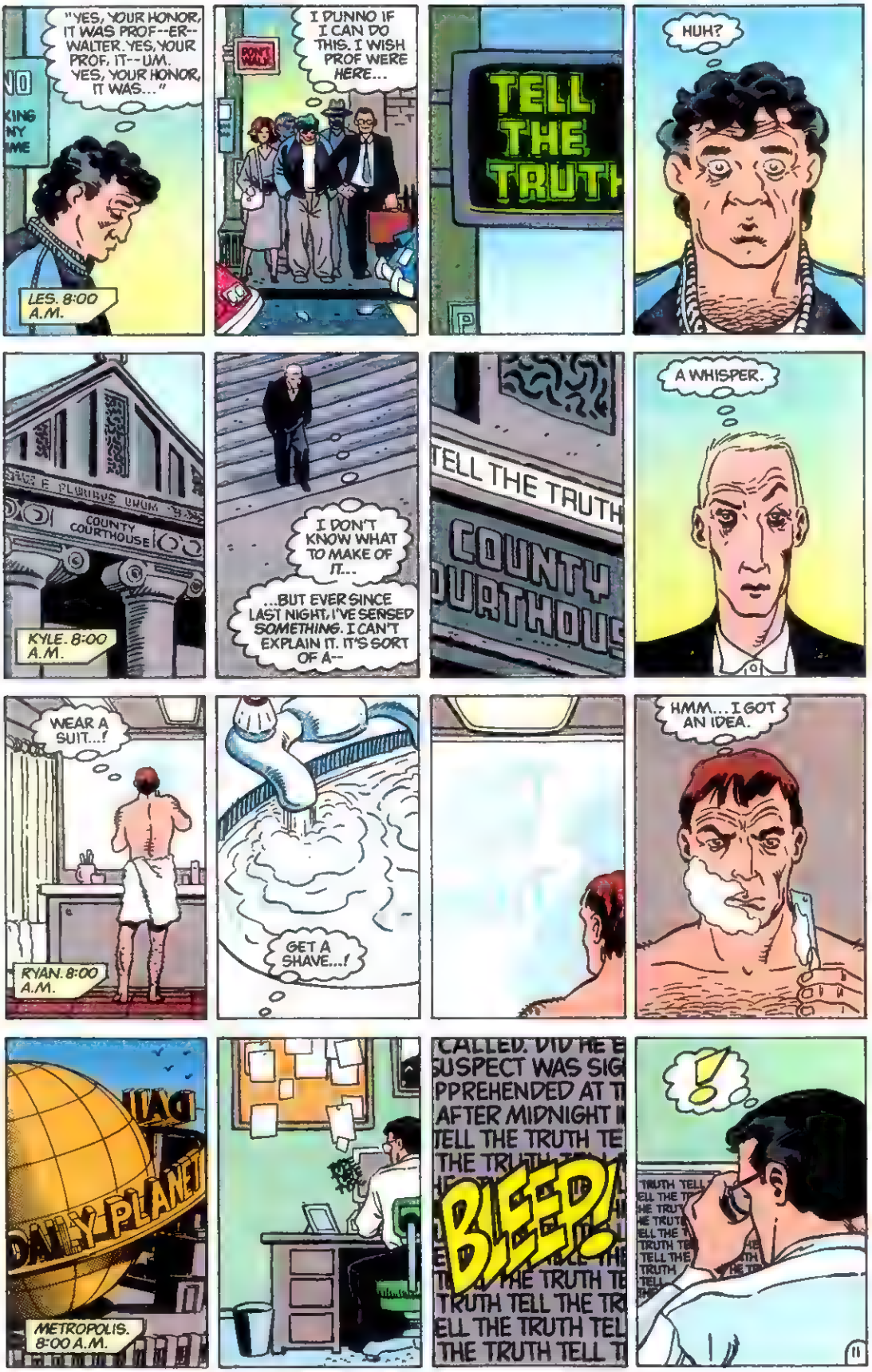
MY FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN YEARS, AND I'LL BE BENDING OVER SO LADY JUSTICE CAN PUT A BROOM HANDLE IN MY BACK DOOR.

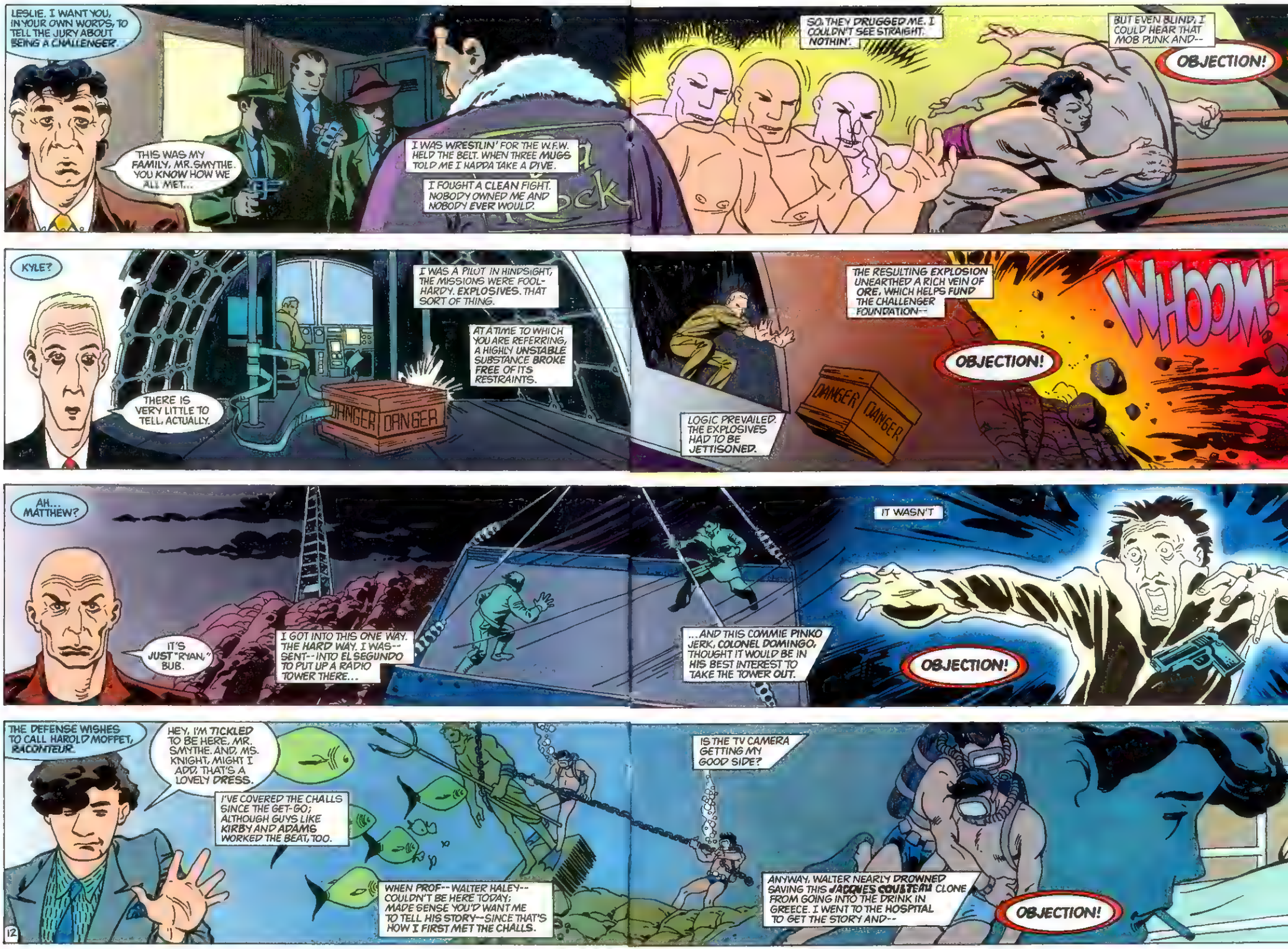
LAWYERS. JERKS. THERE ARE TOO MANY FRIGGIN' LAWS.



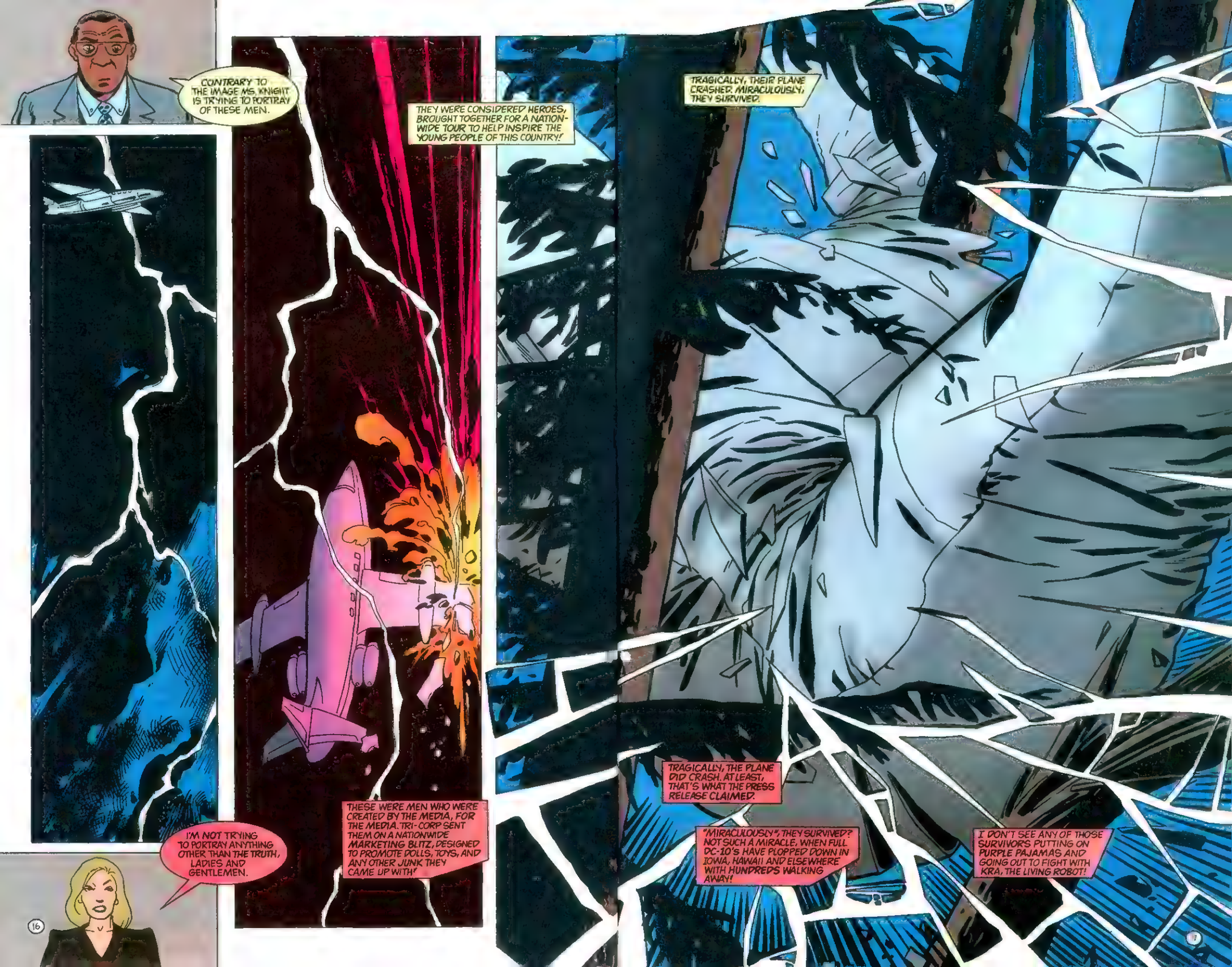


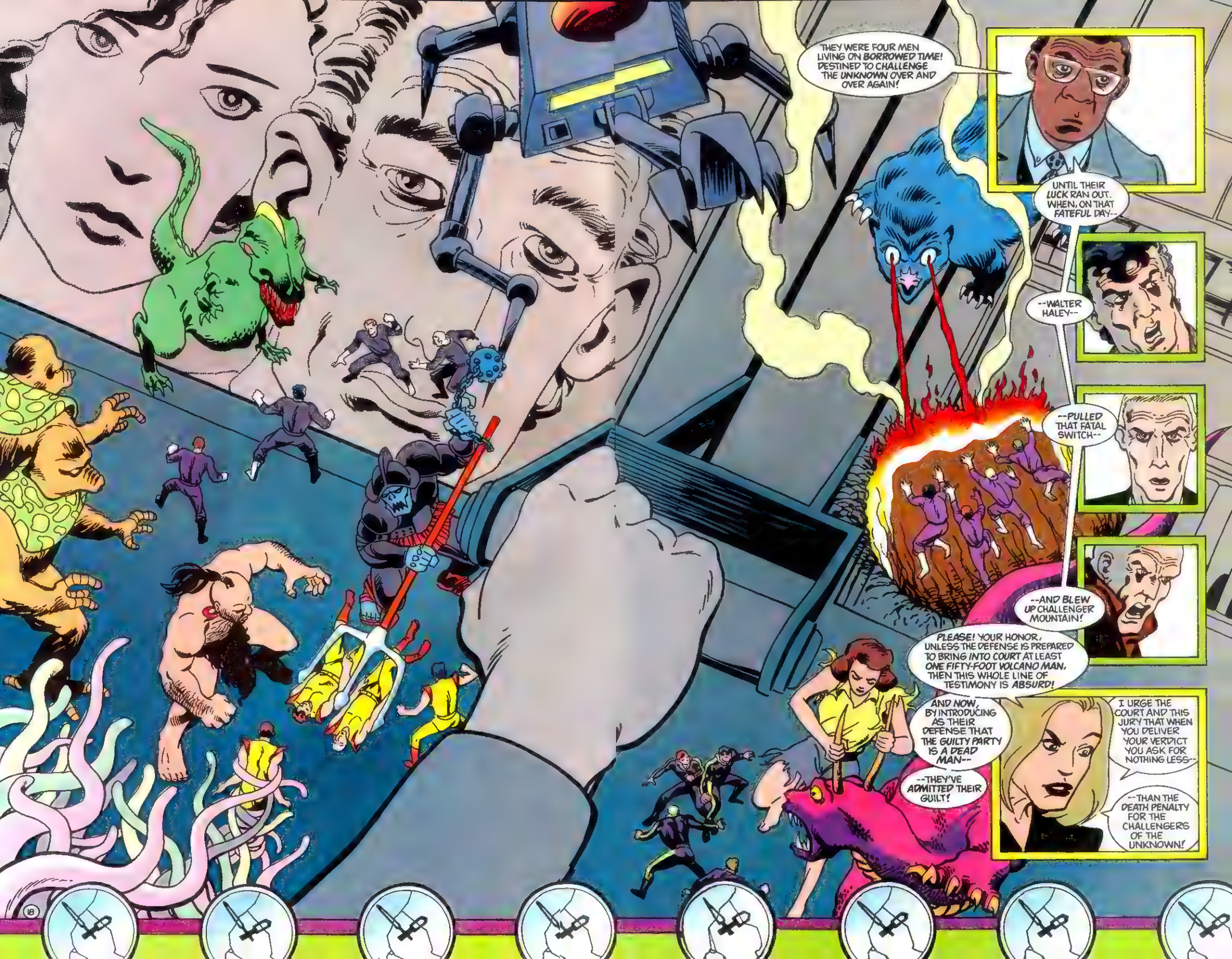


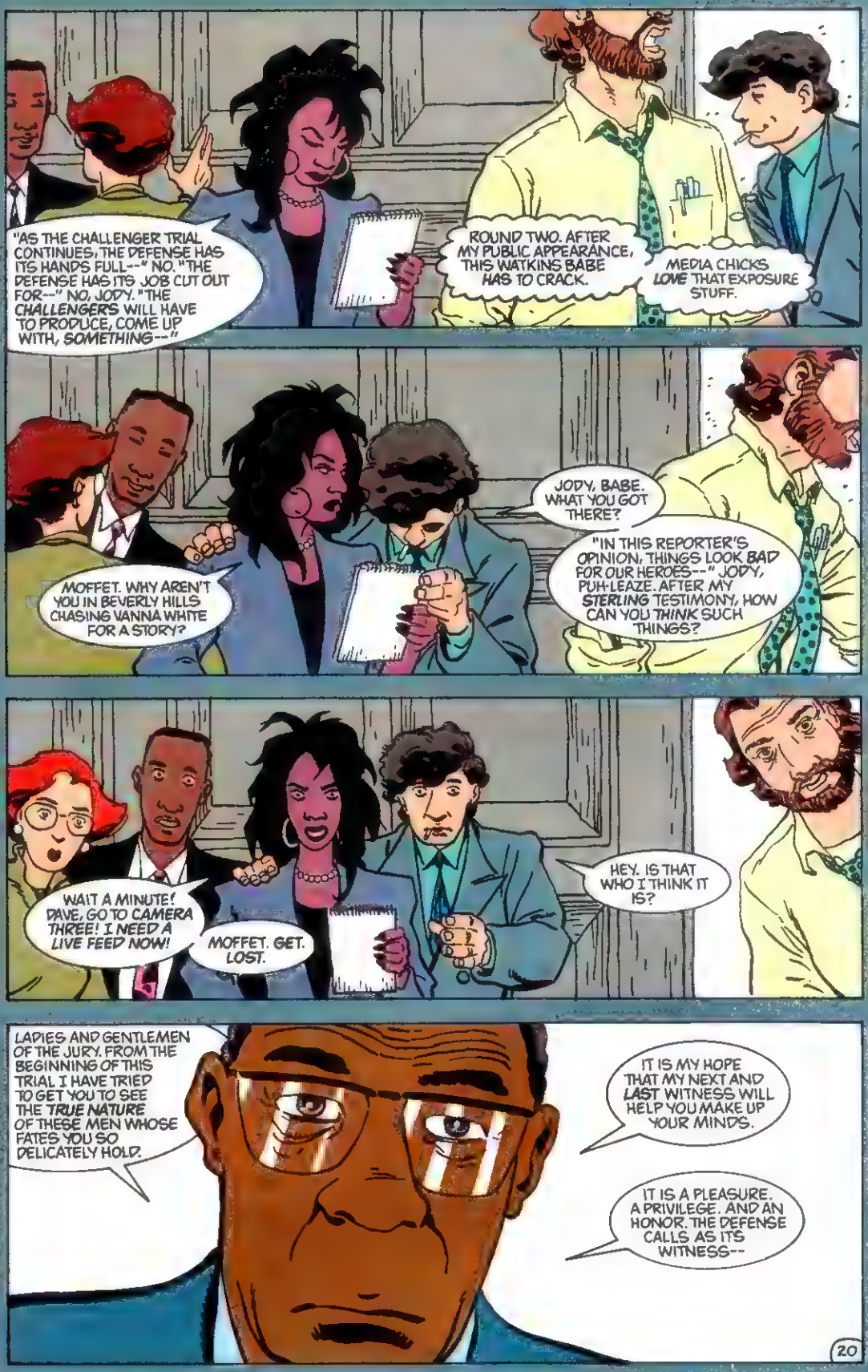

"YES, YOUR HONOR, IT WAS PROF--ER--WALTER. YES, YOUR PROF. IT--UM. YES, YOUR HONOR, IT WAS..."
LES. 8:00 A.M.
I DUNNO IF I CAN DO THIS. I WISH PROF WERE HERE...
DON'T WALK
TELL THE TRUTH
HUH?
COUNTY COURTHOUSE
KYLE. 8:00 A.M.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT...
...BUT EVER SINCE LAST NIGHT, I'VE SENSED SOMETHING. I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT. IT'S SORT OF A--
TELL THE TRUTH
A WHISPER.
WEAR A SUIT...!
RYAN. 8:00 A.M.
GET A SHAVE...!
HMM... I GOT AN IDEA.
METROPOLIS. 8:00 A.M.
SUSPECT WAS SIG
PPREHENDED AT T
AFTER MIDNIGHT
TELL THE TRUTH TE
THE TRUTH TELL THE TR
ELL THE TRUTH TEL
THE TRUTH TELL T
BLEEP!
!


LESLIE, I WANT YOU, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, TO TELL THE JURY ABOUT BEING A CHALLENGER.
THIS WAS MY FAMILY, MR. SMYTHE. YOU KNOW HOW WE ALL MET...
I WAS WRESTLIN' FOR THE W.F.W. HELD THE BELT. WHEN THREE MUGS TOLD ME I HADDA TAKE A DIVE.
I FOUGHT A CLEAN FIGHT. NOBODY OWNED ME AND NOBODY EVER WOULD.
SO, THEY DRUGGED ME. I COULDN'T SEE STRAIGHT. NOTHIN'.
BUT EVEN BLIND, I COULD HEAR THAT MOB PUNK AND--
OBJECTION!
KYLE?
THERE IS VERY LITTLE TO TELL, ACTUALLY.
I WAS A PILOT IN HINDSIGHT, THE MISSIONS WERE FOOL-HARDY. EXPLOSIVES. THAT SORT OF THING.
AT A TIME TO WHICH YOU ARE REFERRING, A HIGHLY UNSTABLE SUBSTANCE BROKE FREE OF ITS RESTRAINTS.
DANGER
DANGER
THE RESULTING EXPLOSION UNEARTHED A RICH VEIN OF ORE, WHICH HELPS FUND THE CHALLENGER FOUNDATION--
WHOOM!
OBJECTION!
LOGIC PREVAILED. THE EXPLOSIVES HAD TO BE JETTISONED.
AH... MATTHEW?
IT'S JUST "RYAN," BUB.
I GOT INTO THIS ONE WAY. THE HARD WAY. I WAS-- SENT-- INTO EL SEGUNDO TO PUT UP A RADIO TOWER THERE...
...AND THIS COMMIE PINKO JERK, COLONEL DOMINGO, THOUGHT IT WOULD BE IN HIS BEST INTEREST TO TAKE THE TOWER OUT.
IT WASN'T
OBJECTION!
THE DEFENSE WISHES TO CALL HAROLD MOFFET, RACONTEUR.
HEY, I'M TICKLED TO BE HERE, MR. SMYTHE. AND, MS. KNIGHT, MIGHT I ADD, THAT'S A LOVELY DRESS.
I'VE COVERED THE CHALLS SINCE THE GET-GO; ALTHOUGH GUYS LIKE KIRBY AND ADAMS WORKED THE BEAT, TOO.
WHEN PROF-- WALTER HALEY-- COULDN'T BE HERE TODAY; MADE SENSE YOU'D WANT ME TO TELL HIS STORY--SINCE THAT'S HOW I FIRST MET THE CHALLS.
IS THE TV CAMERA GETTING MY GOOD SIDE?
ANYWAY, WALTER NEARLY DROWNED SAVING THIS JACQUES COUSTEAU CLONE FROM GOING INTO THE DRINK IN GREECE. I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL TO GET THE STORY AND--
OBJECTION!
12

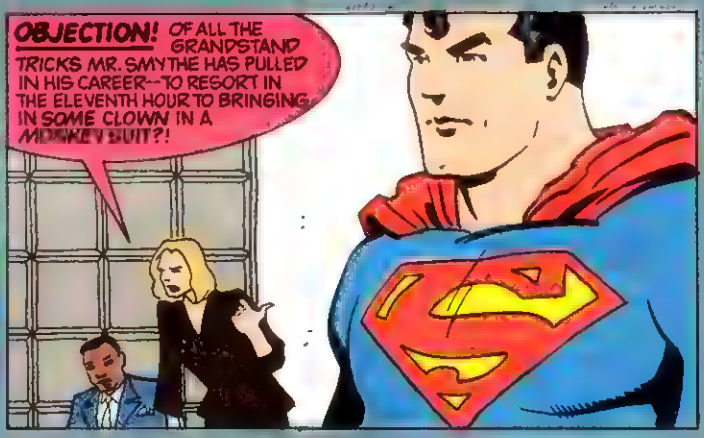
PLEASE, MR. DAVIS, SPARE US ANY MORE DETAILS.
I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT YOUR TESTIMONY IS AS LEGITIMATE AS THE "SPORT" OF WRESTLING ITSELF.
ISN'T IT TRUE, MR. DAVIS, THAT YOU WERE WASHED UP? BUMMING AROUND THAILAND...
...AGREEING TO FIGHT ANYONE FOR A GLASS OF BEER AND A SHOT OF--
YOU CAN'T SAY THAT STUFF. IT WASN'T LIKE THAT. IT WASN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL.
NOTHING FURTHER, YOUR HONOR.
MR. MORGAN. "FOOLHARDY" IS THE OPERATIVE WORD HERE. INDEED, YOU WERE A PILOT...
...AND YOUR MISSIONS WERE FOOLHARDY. BUT, LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE ONLY EXPLOSIVES YOU CAME IN CONTACT WITH--
--WERE THE EXPLOSIVE TEMPERS OF THE D.E.A. AGENTS NOT ON YOUR TAIL--
--AND THAT ON A FOUNDATION OF GAINS FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING, YOU--
MS. KNIGHT! I DO NOT KNOW FROM WHERE YOU ARE GETTING YOUR INFORMATION, BUT--
NOTHING FURTHER, YOUR HONOR.
YOU KILLED THE MAN, DIDN'T YOU, MR. RYAN?
YOUR WORDS, LADY.
BUT, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, MR. RYAN, YOU WERE SENT THERE. SENT BY A CERTAIN AGENCY WHICH IS CENTRAL TO THE INTELLIGENCE OF OUR GOVERNMENT
AND FROM FILES I'VE OBTAINED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, YOU BEFRIENDED STRONGMAN DOMINGO, AND THEN ELIMINATED HIM!
YOU GOT STONES, LADY.
NOTHING FURTHER, YOUR HONOR.
YOUR HONOR, I OBJECT TO THIS WITNESS BEING HERE AT ALL. HIS REPORTING IS SECOND- AND THIRD-HAND--TO SAY NOTHING OF HIS SHODDY ETHICS...
HEY!
FURTHERMORE, TO DESCRIBE MOFFET AS A "RACONTEUR," AS MR. SMYTHE HAS, IS AN INSULT TO THE REAL PROFESSIONALS WHO--
HEY!
"HEY" IS FOR HORSES, MR. MOFFET. AND THEIR BY-PRODUCT IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE BEEN SHOVELLING AT US FOR YEARS!
AND I RESENT MR. SMYTHE TURNING THIS TRIAL INTO SOME SORT OF COMIC BOOK ORIGIN ISSUE!
YOUR JOB WAS, IN FACT, TO TAKE THESE MEN, AND THEIR SOMEWHAT ECCENTRIC BACKGROUNDS AND POPULARIZE THEM FOR THE MEDIA.
HEY, WHEN THE LEGEND BECOMES FACT, YOU PRINT THE LEGEND.
THANK YOU, MR. MOFFET.
14
15


CONTRARY TO THE IMAGE MS. KNIGHT IS TRYING TO PORTRAY OF THESE MEN.
I'M NOT TRYING TO PORTRAY ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE TRUTH, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.
THEY WERE CONSIDERED HEROES, BROUGHT TOGETHER FOR A NATION-WIDE TOUR TO HELP INSPIRE THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY!
THESE WERE MEN WHO WERE CREATED BY THE MEDIA, FOR THE MEDIA. TRI-CORP SENT THEM ON A NATIONWIDE MARKETING BLITZ, DESIGNED TO PROMOTE DOLLS, TOYS, AND ANY OTHER JUNK THEY CAME UP WITH!
TRAGICALLY, THEIR PLANE CRASHED. MIRACULOUSLY, THEY SURVIVED.
TRAGICALLY, THE PLANE DID CRASH. AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT THE PRESS RELEASE CLAIMED.
"MIRACULOUSLY", THEY SURVIVED? NOT SUCH A MIRACLE, WHEN FULL DC-10'S HAVE PLOPPED DOWN IN IOWA, HAWAII AND ELSEWHERE WITH HUNDREDS WALKING AWAY!
I DON'T SEE ANY OF THOSE SURVIVORS PUTTING ON PURPLE PAJAMAS AND GOING OUT TO FIGHT WITH KRA, THE LIVING ROBOT!

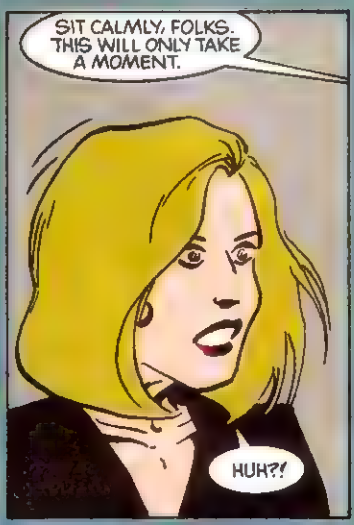

THEY WERE FOUR MEN LIVING ON BORROWED TIME! DESTINED TO CHALLENGE THE UNKNOWN OVER AND OVER AGAIN!
UNTIL THEIR LUCK RAN OUT. WHEN, ON THAT FATEFUL DAY--
--WALTER HALEY--
--PULLED THAT FATAL SWITCH--
--AND BLEW UP CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN!
PLEASE! YOUR HONOR, UNLESS THE DEFENSE IS PREPARED TO BRING INTO COURT AT LEAST ONE FIFTY-FOOT VOLCANO MAN, THEN THIS WHOLE LINE OF TESTIMONY IS ABSURD!
AND NOW, BY INTRODUCING AS THEIR DEFENSE THAT THE GUILTY PARTY IS A DEAD MAN--
--THEY'VE ADMITTED THEIR GUILT!
I URGE THE COURT AND THIS JURY THAT WHEN YOU DELIVER YOUR VERDICT YOU ASK FOR NOTHING LESS--
--THAN THE DEATH PENALTY FOR THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN!


"AS THE CHALLENGER TRIAL CONTINUES, THE DEFENSE HAS ITS HANDS FULL--" NO. "THE DEFENSE HAS ITS JOB CUT OUT FOR--" NO, JODY. "THE CHALLENGERS WILL HAVE TO PRODUCE, COME UP WITH, SOMETHING--"
ROUND TWO. AFTER MY PUBLIC APPEARANCE, THIS WATKINS BABE HAS TO CRACK.
MEDIA CHICKS LOVE THAT EXPOSURE STUFF.
MOFFET. WHY AREN'T YOU IN BEVERLY HILLS CHASING VANNA WHITE FOR A STORY?
JODY, BABE. WHAT YOU GOT THERE?
"IN THIS REPORTER'S OPINION, THINGS LOOK BAD FOR OUR HEROES--" JODY, PUH-LEAZE. AFTER MY STERLING TESTIMONY, HOW CAN YOU THINK SUCH THINGS?
WAIT A MINUTE! DAVE, GO TO CAMERA THREE! I NEED A LIVE FEED NOW!
MOFFET. GET. LOST.
HEY. IS THAT WHO I THINK IT IS?
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY. FROM THE BEGINNING OF THIS TRIAL I HAVE TRIED TO GET YOU TO SEE THE TRUE NATURE OF THESE MEN WHOSE FATES YOU SO DELICATELY HOLD.
IT IS MY HOPE THAT MY NEXT AND LAST WITNESS WILL HELP YOU MAKE UP YOUR MINDS.
IT IS A PLEASURE. A PRIVILEGE. AND AN HONOR. THE DEFENSE CALLS AS ITS WITNESS--

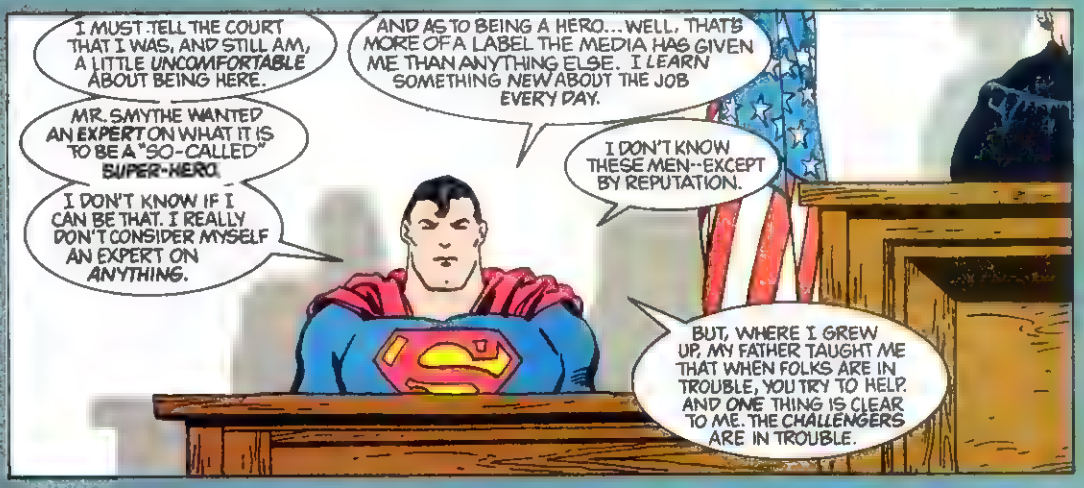
"--SUPERMAN!"


OBJECTION! OF ALL THE GRANDSTAND TRICKS MR. SMYTHE HAS PULLED IN HIS CAREER--TO RESORT IN THE ELEVENTH HOUR TO BRINGING IN SOME CLOWN IN A MONKEY SUIT?!

WHAT PROOF DO WE HAVE THAT THIS ISN'T ONE OF THE MYRIAD HAM ACTORS WHO--


SIT CALMLY, FOLKS. THIS WILL ONLY TAKE A MOMENT.
HUH?!

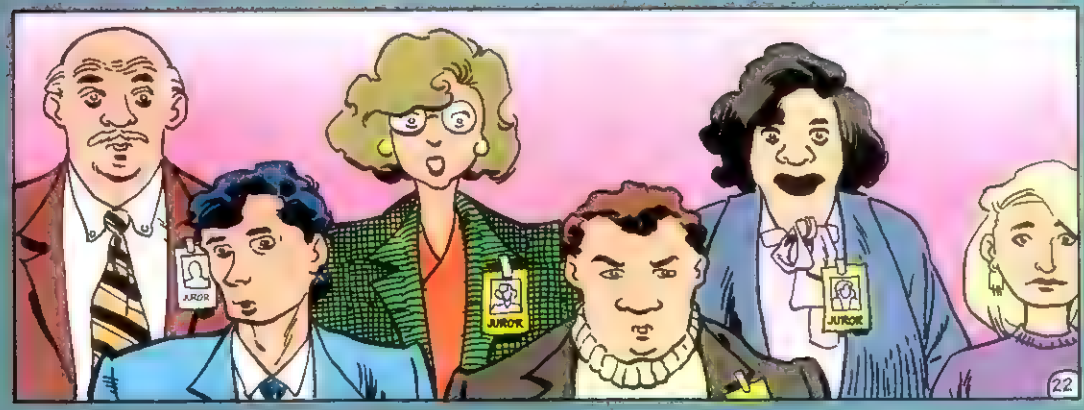
NOW, IF THERE ARE NO OTHER PRELIMINARIES, MS. KNIGHT...?

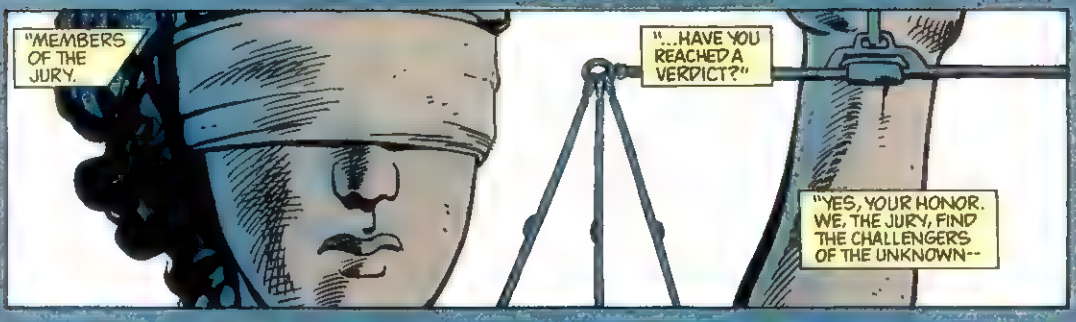

I MUST TELL THE COURT THAT I WAS, AND STILL AM, A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT BEING HERE.
MR. SMYTHE WANTED AN EXPERT ON WHAT IT IS TO BE A "SO-CALLED" SUPER-HERO.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN BE THAT. I REALLY DON'T CONSIDER MYSELF AN EXPERT ON ANYTHING.
AND AS TO BEING A HERO... WELL, THAT'S MORE OF A LABEL THE MEDIA HAS GIVEN ME THAN ANYTHING ELSE. I LEARN SOMETHING NEW ABOUT THE JOB EVERY DAY.
I DON'T KNOW THESE MEN--EXCEPT BY REPUTATION.
BUT, WHERE I GREW UP, MY FATHER TAUGHT ME THAT WHEN FOLKS ARE IN TROUBLE, YOU TRY TO HELP. AND ONE THING IS CLEAR TO ME. THE CHALLENGERS ARE IN TROUBLE.

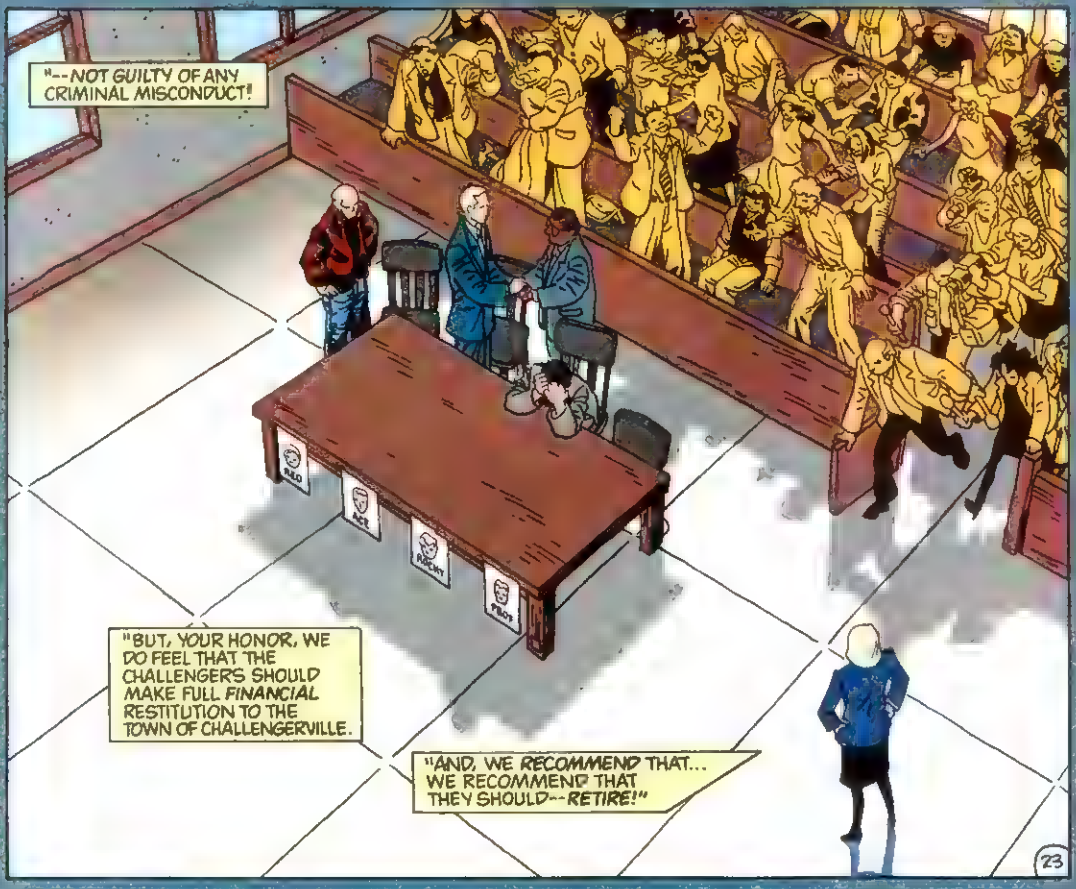
THESE MEN HAD AN AWFUL RESPONSIBILITY. THEY CHOSE TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT. AND TO TRY TO MAKE THIS PLANET A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.
AND, SOMETIMES, WHEN YOU TRY--GOD HELP US--YOU FAIL. AND FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.

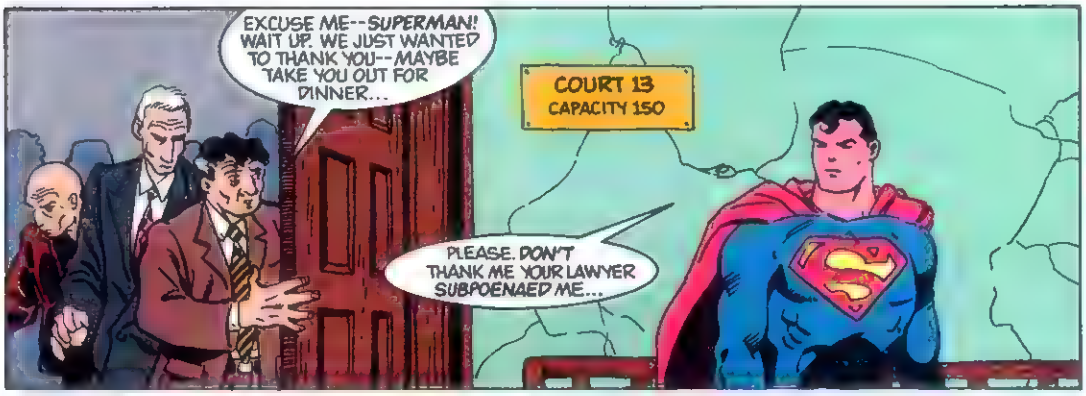
BUT, AS TO MS. KNIGHT'S EARLIER ASSUMPTION THAT THE ONLY WAY FOR US TO KNOW IF ANY OF THIS IS TRUE, WOULD BE TO BRING INTO COURT A FIFTY-FOOT MONSTER...
...I ASK YOU TO OPEN YOUR MINDS AND USE YOUR IMAGINATION. AND IF YOU WANT TO BELIEVE, YOU WILL. AFTER ALL--

--YOU BELIEVE A MAN CAN FLY.


JUROR
JUROR
JUROR
22


"MEMBERS OF THE JURY.
"...HAVE YOU REACHED A VERDICT?"
"YES, YOUR HONOR. WE, THE JURY, FIND THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN--


"--NOT GUILTY OF ANY CRIMINAL MISCONDUCT!
"BUT, YOUR HONOR, WE DO FEEL THAT THE CHALLENGERS SHOULD MAKE FULL FINANCIAL RESTITUTION TO THE TOWN OF CHALLENGERVILLE.
"AND, WE RECOMMEND THAT... WE RECOMMEND THAT THEY SHOULD--RETIRE!"

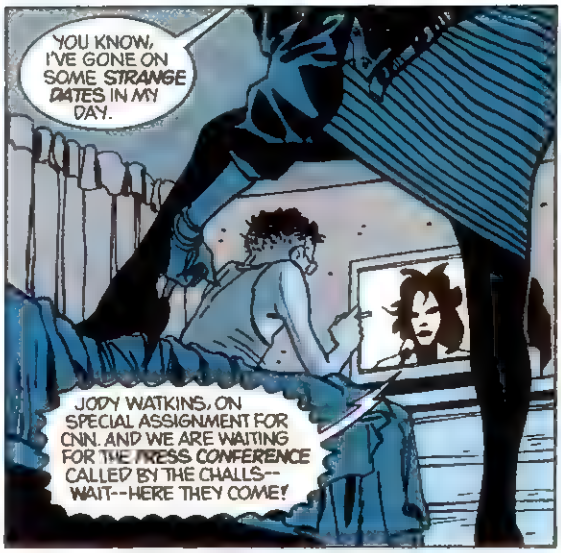

EXCUSE ME--SUPERMAN! WAIT UP. WE JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU--MAYBE TAKE YOU OUT FOR DINNER...
COURT 13
CAPACITY 150
PLEASE. DON'T THANK ME. YOUR LAWYER SUBPOENAED ME...

...AND BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM, I DID WHAT I DID GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. IT MAY BE YEARS BEFORE WE KNOW THE FULL EFFECT OF WHAT WENT ON IN THAT COURT-ROOM. IT'S A LITTLE SAD WHEN YOU THINK OF IT.

BUT WHEN THAT JURY MADE YOU FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS--I CAN'T HELP THINKING THAT SOME DAY, SOMEONE ISN'T GOING TO ANSWER A CALL FOR HELP--
--BECAUSE THEY'LL BE AFRAID. AFRAID OF THE LAWSUITS...THE PUBLICITY...THE COST. NOT IN HUMAN LIFE, BUT IN DOLLARS AND CENTS.

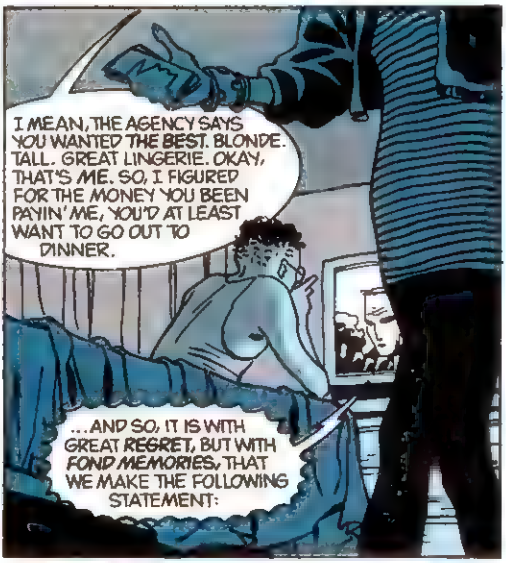
GOOD LUCK.

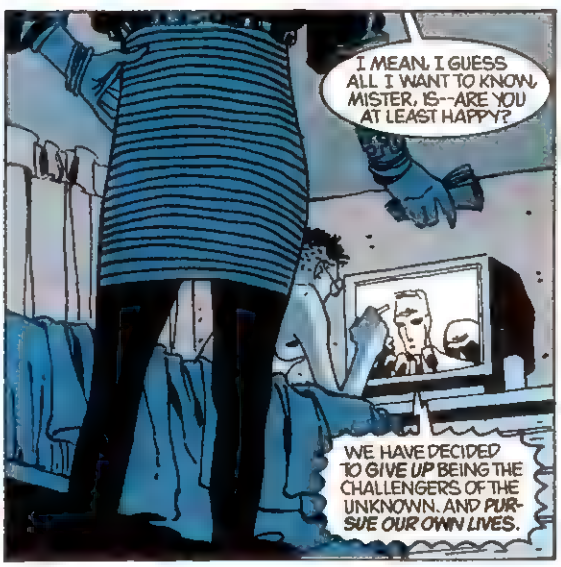
WHAT'RE YOUR PLANS?
WILL YOU DO OPRAH?
HAVE YOU SOLD THE BOOK RIGHTS?
HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THE CHAIN OF CHALLENGER HOTELS?
WHAT ABOUT A MOVIE?
WILL YOU DO ARSENIO?
HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE TEENAGE MUTANT CHALLENGERS?
ARE YOU DATING ALI McGRAW?
WILL YOU SELL YOUR CHALLENGER COPYRIGHT TO A YOUNGER GROUP?
WILL YOU DO BYRON?
ANYBODY KNOW A GOOD BAR NEAR HERE?


YOU KNOW, I'VE GONE ON SOME *STRANGE DATES* IN MY DAY.
JODY WATKINS, ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT FOR CNN. AND WE ARE WAITING FOR THE *PRESS CONFERENCE* CALLED BY THE CHALLS--WAIT--HERE THEY COME!

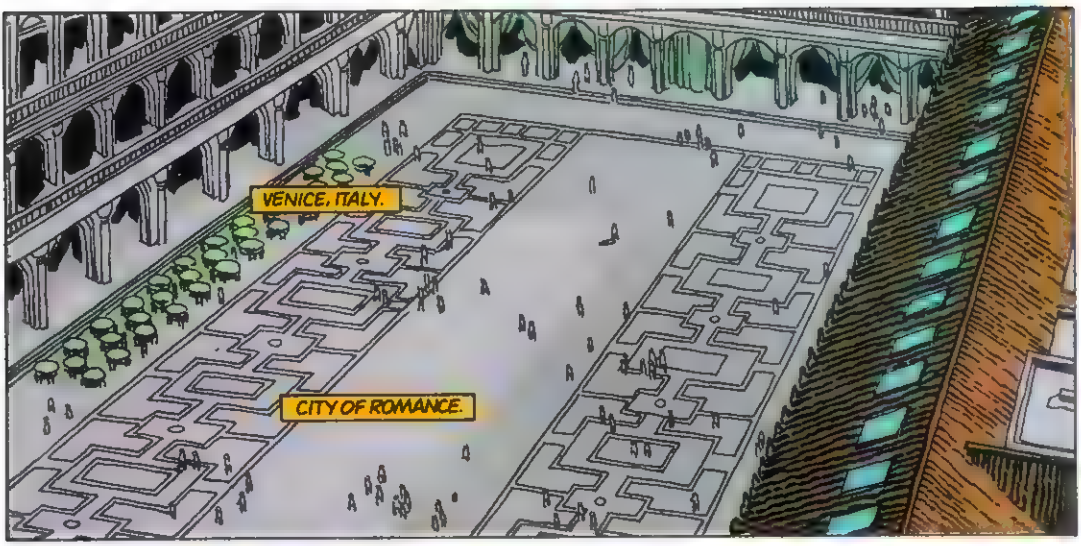
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS. PEOPLE OF THE WORLD. WE KNOW THAT YOUR EYES HAVE BEEN UPON US DURING THIS ORDEAL.
DON'T GET ME WRONG. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU WERE WEIRD OR ANYTHING.

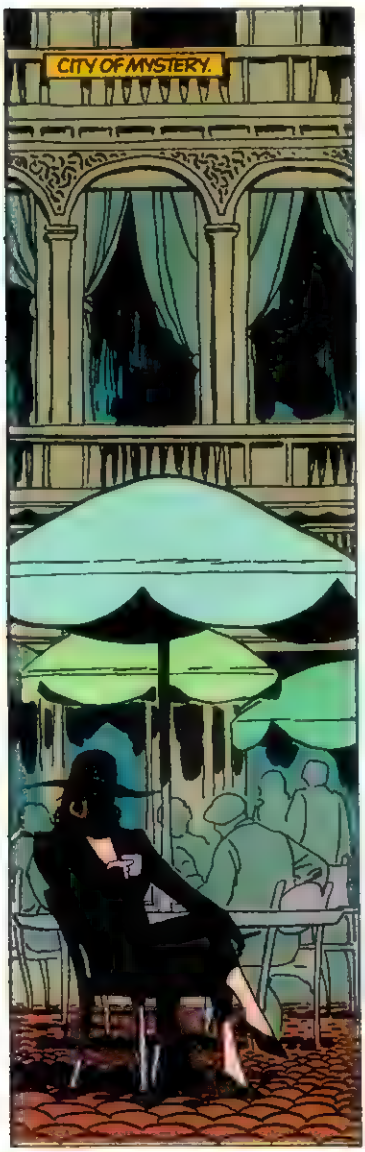
BUT ALL WE'VE DONE FOR *DAYS* IS HOLE UP IN THIS ROOM--WHILE YOU'VE BEEN *GLUED* TO THAT *TV TRIAL THING* LIKE IT WAS A MATTER OF *LIFE* AND *DEATH*.
WE WANT TO THANK THOSE OF YOU WHO STOOD BY US, WITH YOUR *PRAYERS*, YOUR PHONE CALLS, YOUR LETTERS...


I MEAN, THE AGENCY SAYS YOU WANTED *THE BEST*. BLONDE. TALL. GREAT LINGERIE. OKAY, THAT'S *ME*. SO, I FIGURED FOR THE MONEY YOU BEEN PAYIN' *ME*, YOU'D AT LEAST WANT TO GO OUT TO DINNER.
...AND SO, IT IS WITH GREAT *REGRET*, BUT WITH *FOND MEMORIES*, THAT WE MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:


I MEAN, I GUESS ALL I WANT TO KNOW, MISTER, IS--ARE YOU AT LEAST HAPPY?
WE HAVE DECIDED TO *GIVE UP* BEING THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN. AND *PURSUE OUR OWN LIVES*.

SAPPY.
ZAPPY
WAPPY.
NAPPY.
HAPPY.
HAPPY.
HAPPY.


VENICE, ITALY.
CITY OF ROMANCE.


CITY OF MYSTERY.

CITY OF BEAUTIFUL DANGEROUS WOMEN.
VENEZIA
CHALLO'S SONO MORTI

ONE OF THEM IS LEAVING VENICE ..
... AND SHE'S COMING HOME TO AMERICA!
TO BE CONTINUED..

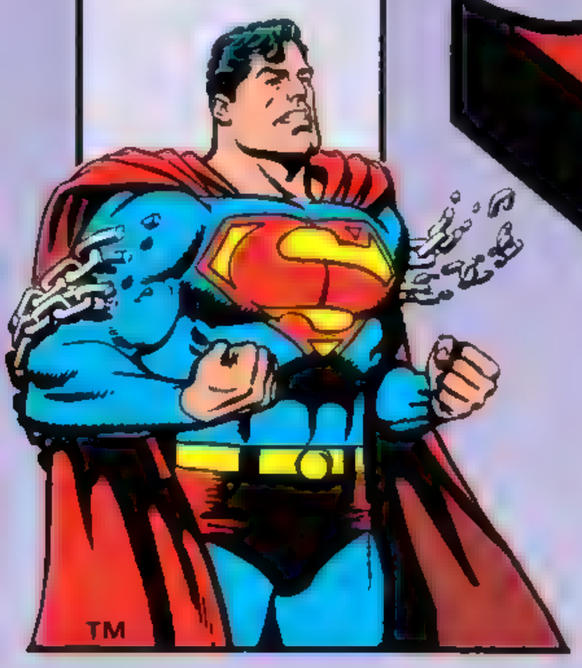
DC

52
FEB 91

SUPERMAN®

BY ORDWAY, GAMMILL & JANKE

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY



1991
4

TERRA-MAN™ SEZ DANCE, PARDNER!

YOU ARE ENTERING LOOKOUT
Death
POP. 10

ORDWAY

TION
OUS WAST
CONTAMINAT
WINDOWS CLO

1991
5

THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN®

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

475
FEB 91

BY
JURGENS
AND THIBERT

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE...

TM

1991
6
SUPERMAN IN
ACTION COMICS
662
FEB 91
US $1.00
CAN $1.25
UK 50P
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BY STERN & McLEOD
AT LONG LAST...
...THE SECRET REVEALED!
GAMMILL / BREEDING
DON'T MISS SUPERMAN NO. 53 IN 2 WEEKS!

DC

53
MAR 91

SUPERMAN®

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE AMERICAN WAY!™

BY ORDWAY AND JANKE

JERRY ORDWAY

1991
7

CHALLENGERS
of the UNKNOWN
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN
2
APR 91
US $1.75
CAN $2.25
UK £1
PART TWO
OF EIGHT
BY JEPH LOEB
AND TIM SALE